FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 AUGUST 1983

Israel

After intensive contacts between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and government and party leaders attempting to persuade the prime minister to rescind his decision to resign, Begin announced that he will give a final answer late on 29 August or at noon the following day, Jerusalem radio reported. Begin had announced his intention to resign at the start of the 28 August Cabinet meeting and rejected attempts by other ministers to change his mind, according to the radio. The prime minister told confidants that he has been considering resignation "for a long time" and that he did not announce his decision one day only to revoke it the next, the radio noted. Jerusalem radio named Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as the most likely candidate to succeed Begin and mentioned the possibility that former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will be asked to return to the coalition government. Noting that representatives of TAMI, the National Religious Party, and Agudat Yisra'el have reiterated their willingness to continue in partnership with Likud, Jerusalem television indicated that the formation of a new coalition headed by the opposition Alignment is unlikely.

A *Jerusalem Post* analysis of Begin's decision spoke of the prime minister's dissatisfaction with problems within his Cabinet and widespread public criticism of him and his government. Nevertheless, Begin offered no explanation of his reasons for wanting to resign beyond telling ministers: "I feel I cannot carry on shouldering my responsibilities, with things as they are, the way I would like to and the way I ought to."

Lebanon

Marines Killed in Beirut — Two U.S. Marines were killed and six others were injured by mortar fire at U.S. positions near Beirut Airport, a Marine spokesman announced on 29 August in remarks broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio. The radio said the Syrians and their allies in the mountains east of the capital were shelling Lebanese Army positions in southern Beirut in order to assist Shi'ite Amal Movement militia and other gunmen who began fighting the Army on 28 August. One Lebanese soldier was killed and 22 others were wounded in the clashes, according to Beirut radio.

The latest round of fighting erupted when the Lebanese Army intervened to impose order after Shi'ites putting up posters of Imam Musa as-Sadr came under fire from gunmen, the Voice of Lebanon said. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio blamed the Phalangists for initiating the clash with Amal. An Amal Movement communique reported by SANA accused the Phalangists of staging "provocations and aggressions" in southern Beirut under the "care and protection" of the Lebanese Army. The communique said 10 people were killed and 20 others were wounded in the resulting fighting. Amal gunmen set up roadblocks in the city and kidnapped several soldiers, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios.

IDF Denial on Al-Biqa' Clash — The IDF spokesman denied a Syrian announcement that Israeli tanks fired at a Syrian position in the Al-Biqa' area on 27 August, Jerusalem radio reported. The Syrian announcement, which was made by a military spokesman in a statement carried by SANA, claimed two Syrians were wounded by Israeli fire. The Syrians returned the fire, destroying an Israeli barracks, the spokesman asserted.

Political Developments — U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane held intensive talks on the Ash-Shuf problem with Lebanese Government and Druze leaders in Paris, according to AFP reports over the weekend. Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, who participated in the discussions, reaffirmed in an interview broadcast by Paris radio that the Lebanese Army must not enter Ash-Shuf unless a political agreement is reached. In other developments, Voice of Lebanon reported the Army will enter the area between 5 and 8 September, while the Israeli Defense Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem Television, announced that the IDF's redeployment plans will be unaffected by Begin's possible resignation.

Syrian officials held talks with McFarlane's assistant Richard Fairbanks in Damascus, according to Radio Monte Carlo, and Syria's *Tishrin* warned the Phalangists in an editorial reported by Damascus radio that any attempt to solve the Ash-Shuf problem by force will be a "mad adventure." Syria will be "compelled to prevent even the mere contemplation of such a move" and will deter it with all necessary force, *Tishrin* added.

Reaction to Reagan Speech

Although President Reagan's 27 August speech reaffirming U.S. commitment to the Reagan plan underwent "various changes" because Israel had asked for certain statements to be "moderated," Israeli circles in Washington said the President's declared reservations about the settlements are "cause for concern," Jerusalem radio reported. The Amman paper *Ad-Dustur* stated that unless Reagan presses Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and to freeze the settlement program, all talk of reviving his peace plan will be a "big deception," Amman radio reported.

PLO Affairs

In the first high-level meeting between Palestinian and Jordanian officials since April, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received in Tunis Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and Minister of Occupied Territories Hasan Ibrahim, who delivered a message from King Husayn on the Middle East situation and the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Amman television and Radio Monte Carlo. 'Arafat and the two ministers discussed the 1983 PNC resolutions on developing "special and unique" relations between the Palestinians and Jordan, Radio Monte Carlo added.

Referring to the recent meeting between Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens, 'Arafat stated that officials in the "occupied territories" are "forced" to hold contacts with the civilian administration since there are matters that have to be discussed, according to an article in the Jerusalem paper *Al-Quds* cited by the Israeli paper *'Al Hamishmar*.

In Northern Lebanon the Palestinian resistance command adopted resolutions against the clashes in Tripoli between supporters of PFLP-General Command leader Ahmad Jibril and General Command dissidents, north Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio said. Further attempts to trigger incidents between Palestinians will be frustrated, the resolutions stated.

Syria

Damascus Explosion — An explosion in an office building in Damascus killed 5 people and injured 10 others, according to a brief SANA report. No further details were provided on the explosion. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the explosion occurred outside the Syrian intelligence center, killing 8 and wounding 24 others. No fewer than 30 Syrians and Palestinians have been arrested in connection with the incident, the radio added.

Denial of U.S. Mediation — An official source denied the Egyptian magazine *October*'s reported claim that President Hafiz al-Asad has discussed Syrian-Egyptian relations with U.S. envoy McFarlane. In his statement, which was broadcast by Damascus television, the source said such reports are false, adding that Syria does not discuss its Arab relations through the United States or other third parties.

Egypt

Although both Egypt and Israel have made mistakes in the Sinai border negotiations, Israel has made many more than Egypt, including the destruction of the Israeli settlement of Yamit, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali told the Israeli paper *Yedi'ot Aharonot*. Relations between the two countries will improve when Israel solves the problem of Lebanon, Ghali stated. The minister also affirmed that Egypt wants a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in order to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region, according to an interview reported by Cairo radio.

Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told the magazine *Rose al-Yusuf* that the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv depends on Israel's efforts to make peace in the area, MENA reported. Egypt rejects Israeli settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and insists that Israel must withdraw from Jerusalem and the Golan Heights as well as link withdrawal from the Golan to a timetable for the total withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon, 'Ali Stated.

Libya-Chad

In a communique broadcast by the clandestine Radio Bardai, the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) "unreservedly" condemned the idea of federation expressed by French President Francois Mitterrand in an interview published in *Le Monde*. The GUNT agrees to a "sincere and definitive reconciliation" with Chadian President Hissein Habre but the French troops must withdraw before negotiations begin, the communique stated. Commenting on Mitterrand's "justifications" to *Le Monde* for intervening in Chad, JANA called French policy "dishonest" and asserted that Mitterrand has shown his hostility toward Islam in Africa by exercising the "imperialist" policy in the region.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir denied that Israeli military advisers have been sent to Chad, according to Jerusalem radio's English service. Meanwhile, mercenaries are being recruited in Belgium although it is not known which side in the Chadian conflict is doing the recruiting, AFP said.

Gulf States

The GCC states insist on protecting and defending their security without any foreign interference, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah told the Kuwaiti paper *AL-Qabas* after the recent GCC Ministerial Council meeting. The official also told KUNA that the GCC decided to suspend economic and other aid to any country restoring diplomatic relations with Israel.

Pilgrimage Dispute

It would be "irrational" for Saudi authorities to expect Iranian pilgrims not to protest against the United States and Israel during the hajj ceremonies, the representative of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in Mashhad told visiting pilgrim tour leaders 25 August, according to IRNA. In Saudi Arabia "thousands" of Iranian pilgrims shouted slogans against the United States and Israel during ceremonies in Al-Madinah, IRNA reported. Although Saudi police set up strict security measures during the ceremonies, there were no incidents, IRNA added.

Meanwhile, a responsible Saudi source cited by SPA rejected recent claims by the Iranian civil aviation minister that the Kingdom is obstructing Iranian pilgrims by limiting the number of Iranian airlines flights into the country during the hajj period. He affirmed that the usual arrangements were made with Iran to facilitate the pilgrims' visit.

Iran

Hijacked Air France Plane — The four Lebanese who hijacked an Air France plane threatened to take off from Tehran Airport immediately if France does not meet their demands for the release of "friends" imprisoned in France and an "apology" for French policies in Chad, Lebanon, and Iraq, IRNA reported. The hijackers stated earlier that they would blow up the plane if the demands were not met. Commenting on the incident to IRNA, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi recalled the French Government attitude when an Iranian plane was hijacked to France in July, stating that the big powers unfortunately seem to react sympathetically to these incidents "when it is in their interests."

Tudeh Leader Appearance — Tudeh Party leader Nureddin Kianuri gave an interview on Tehran television 27 August in which he deplored the party's past dependence on the USSR and its attempts to push the country into the socialist camp. He denied that drugs, torture, or any pressure had been used to make him and other party leaders change their views. Kianuri concluded the interview by urging young people not to follow the Tudeh's past policies and to "act responsibly."

The USSR has continued its "unsavory propaganda" campaign against Iran with attempts to justify the Tudeh Party's "treacherous" behavior, IRNA said. However, Moscow has remained silent on the Kianuri television interview, IRNA added.

Cabinet Ministers Approved — The Majlis approved the appointments of the new ministers of commerce and of labor and social welfare but three other ministerial candidates failed to gain the necessary number of votes for confirmation, Tehran radio reported.

Musavi on Narcotics — The superpowers support drug trafficking in Iran in an attempt to undermine the country, Prime Minister Musavi told police during ceremonies in Tehran, according to IRNA.

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq told journalists before leaving for Turkey that the situation is under control and the "handful" of people involved in the violence will be "dealt with sternly and will be completely rooted out," Karachi radio reported. A Karachi official cited earlier by AFP stated that the government "is not disposed to negotiate" while an underground opposition leader also declared a lack of interest in a dialogue with government, saying that the protests will continue.

Police leave was canceled in Sind Province as the civil disobedience campaign entered its third week, AFP reported. The Defense Ministry denied claims that the Army had been deployed in the province, asserting that the police were handling the protests, AFP said. Despite government statements that the situation was calm, continued agitation was reported along with "minor signs of dissidence" in the Punjab region, AFP added. Meanwhile, police arrested members of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's family shortly before a mass rally at his grave, AFP said. Later police used teargas to disperse marchers from Bhutto's grave to his home village while a crowd attacked public buildings in the village.

An editorial published in the Karachi paper *Dawn* deplored the violence but stated that those who gave themselves up for arrest or who were arrested for shouting slogans should be considered political prisoners and should not be treated as common criminals, the paper added.

Afghanistan

The leader of an anti-Soviet rebel group vowed to offer "all possible resistance" against a Soviet-U.S. "plot" to bring former King Mohammad Zaher Shah back into power, according to an interview in the Pakistani paper *Jasarat* cited by IRNA.

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'Arafat Receives Jordanian Envoy, Message

JN271318 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] A Palestinian source said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim for 5 hours in Tunis last night. The minister gave him a message from King Husayn, but nothing has been revealed on the contents of this message.

However, it was stated that it deals with the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

More on Husayn Letter

GF271551 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Tunis, 27 Aug (QNA) — The QNA correspondent in Tunis has learned from Palestinian sources that the message received by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Jordan's King Husayn explained in detail the critical situation witnessed by the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of the attempts to Judaize the cities, especially Jerusalem and Al-Khalil.

These sources said that 'Arafat chaired a long working session in light of the Jordanian monarch's message. The session was attended on the Jordanian side by Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, who delivered the message to 'Arafat; Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for occupied territory affairs; and Nabih an-Nimr, Jordan's ambassador in Tunis and its envoy to the Arab League.The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO Political Department; Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Khalid al-Hasan and Hani al-Hasan, members of the Fatah Central Committee; and Hakam Bal'awi, director of the PLO office in Tunis.

The Palestinian sources pointed out that the session comprehensively reviewed the situation inside the occupied territory and the reports coming from there through both Jordanian and Palestinian sources on the designs of the Israeli enemy, and the urgent joint work which should be done to save the inherited rights of the Palestinian people, which are negatively affected by the existing international and domestic situation. The two sides also discussed matters concerning the international conference on the Palestinian issue which will begin in Geneva next Monday, and the question of coordination between the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations for the success of this conference and for gaining the maximum possible international support for the Palestinian issue.

'Arafat Interviewed on Reagan, Syria, Israel

NC261732 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 26 Aug 83

[By Jean Rafaelli and Hacen Jouini]

[Text] Tunis, Aug 26 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today claimed that the PLO "remained the principal factor for a Middle East peace settlement" one year after the PLO's expulsion from west Beirut.

"Despite the current troubles in the Al-Biqa', neither Israel nor anyone else can liquidate us," Mr 'Arafat said in an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Mr 'Arafat also challenged President Ronald Reagan to make good on his one year-old Middle Peace plan. "Where are the proofs and where are the promises?," Mr 'Arafat asked. "Mr Reagan promised to halt the Israeli colonization of the occupied territories, protect Palestinian civilians in Lebanon, force the Israeli military out of Lebanon, and lead the Palestinian people to self-determination. None of these promises have been kept."

On the international conference on the Palestinian question opening in Geneva on August 29, Mr 'Arafat said the PLO delegation will demand "the application of United Nations resolutions." "At this conference, we expect the active support of governments, organizations, and eminent personalities for our cause," Mr 'Arafat added.

The PLO leader refused to discuss the Syrian-backed mutiny by PLO dissidents in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley against his leadership, but said all his attempts to reach an agreement with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had failed. "The last delegation, the one from the PLO Central Committee, could not meet Hafiz al-Asad," he said. "Since my expulsion (from Damascus on June 24), I have had no contact with him, either by message nor by telephone. "But we continue to hope and work for a reconciliation in accordance with directives from our central organs," Mr 'Arafat said.

The PLO chief dismissed the recent meeting between Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens and three West Bank Palestinian leaders, including the mayor of Bethlehem, as a "local contingency." "Our people, who live under repression and dictatorship, may be forced into contacts with the Israeli administration, but to my knowledge the Palestinians and leaders in the occupied territories reject the Israeli positions," Mr 'Arafat said.

The PLO leader said another meeting of the Palestinian National Council — the Palestinian parliament — was "under study" and that he had no immediate plans to go to Moscow despite a standing invitation."

Mr 'Arafat refused to be drawn into specifics concerning PLO plans for the future, but said: "Nothing can break the will of five million Palestinians to recover their territory. The blows and the resistance (against Israeli rule) in the occupied territories constitute a true referendum." The PLO leader said it was "premature" to comment on a possible meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand when Mr Mitterrand visits Tunisia at the end of October.

'Arafat Cables Ceausescu on Romanian National Day

NC280900 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, the PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution

forces, has sent a cable to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania and secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party, congratulating him on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the establishment of the friendly Republic of Romania.

In his cable, Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed our Palestinian people's appreciation of the firm stands of support from the Socialist Republic of Romania for the struggle of our people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative —the PLO — to regain their inalienable national and legitimate rights, including the right to return [to their homeland] and their right to self-determination, as well as their right to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Begin's Resignation Announced on PLO Radio
JN281726 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] The Zionist terrorist Menahem Begin, the enemy prime minister, informed the Zionist enemy government today that he plans to resign his post as prime minister. The Zionist enemy radio said that Begin told members of his government about his decision at the start of the Zionist government's weekly session today, and that he has not yet told the president of the Zionist entity.

The resignation followed the TAMI movement's decision to withdraw from the ruling coalition because of the economic measures that were adopted by Begin's government, and the failure of efforts to prevent the movement from withdrawing. Aharon Uzan, the labor minister from the TAMI movement, was absent from the Zionist government session today.

Other reasons for the resignation are the deteriorating economic situation in the Zionist entity and differences between the ministers on budget reduction, the results of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and Begin's health. A spokesman for the Zionist government said that Begin rejected a request from the ministers to change his mind about the resignation in light of the Zionist entity's security and political circumstances. The Zionist enemy radio also pointed out that Begin left the Cabinet session accompanied by his ministers from the Herut Party, who tried to convince him to change his mind about the resignation.

According to Zionist law, the resignation will become effective after being submitted to the president of the Zionist state. In that case, the president will attempt to form a coalition government with the opposition parties, or he might call for early elections. In the second case, Begin's government will become a transitional government whose ministers and parties will not be able to withdraw from it.

Fatah Committee Begins Closed Meetings in Tunis
NC270800 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0655 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Tunis — The Fatah Central Committee began its closed meetings yesterday in the presence of Brother Abu 'Ammar, the PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces. Eleven out of a total 15 members of the Central Committee attended the meeting.

The committee's meetings deal with developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly the conditions of our people in the occupied homeland and in Lebanon, as well as with the Syrian-Palestinian differences.

PNC Chairman, Delegation Return to Damascus
GF282004 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The PNC delegation headed by the council's chairman, Brother Khalid al-Fahum, returned to Damascus today following a 1-week visit to Czechoslovakia.

During their visit, the delegation members held talks with a number of Czechoslovak officials on strengthening bilateral relations and on developments in the Palestinian question.

Syrians Supply Fatah Dissidents With Missiles
NC261606 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Our Al-Biqa' correspondent has reported that the Syrian Army is transporting arms from Syria to the dissident group of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] in the Ar-Rawdah al-Istabl area. The arms include antiaircraft guns, 122 and 132-mm field artillery pieces, and various types of rounds for artillery and Grad missiles. Socialist elements are taking part in transporting these arms from Syria to the mountain via Dayr al-'Asha'ir.

Klibi Proposes Sending Arab Forces to Lebanon
JN250921 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Aug 83

[Text] The newspapaper *Ash-Sharq Al-Awsat* published in London today said that during their meeting in Damascus yesterday, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi proposed to Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt that Arab forces be sent to the Lebanese mountain area after the Israeli withdrawal.

Junblatt however, according to the newspaper, was not ethusiastic.

Syria's Al-Asad Reportedly Wants To Meet Mubarak
NC270844 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] The Egyptian weekly *October* reports today that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has expressed a desire to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to resolve the differences between their countries.

Quoting an undisclosed reliable source, the weekly adds that President al-Asad conveyed this desire to U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane during their meeting in Damascus early this month.

Zambia, Nigeria To Exchange Envoys With PLO

NC280940 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] The governments of Zambia and Nigeria yesterday announced their agreement to exchange ambassadors with the PLO and to allow the PLO to open an office on the embassy level, enjoying full rights in each of their capitals.

The governments of Zambia and Nigeria have communicated their decision to brother Sulayman al-Harfi, who is currently touring some African states, during which he met with the heads of the two friendly African countries.

The Decision of Zambia and Nigeria supporting the cause of our Palestinian people and their legitimate rights comes as an answer to the decision of the government of Nigeria [as heard] — to restore its relations with the Zionist entity and to confirm anew the unity of the Palestinian-African struggle against racism and its regimes, and against the Republic of South Africa and the Zionist entity.

Palestinian Families in South Lebanon Deported

NC260500 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Aug 83

[Text] According to reports received from southern Lebanon, all the Palestinian families in Wadi az-Zayn have been evacuated after having received threats from the Lebanese forces militias of agent Sa'd Haddad. This is part of the continuing harrassement of the Palestinians with a view to deporting them from Lebanon by all means. Some 250 families were deported today.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Foreign Ministers To Meet in November

GF271034 Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Medina, 27 Aug (QNA) — Press reports here said today that the GCC foreign ministers will hold an extraordinary meeting before the scheduled Arab summit conference which will be held in Riyadh in November in a serious attempt to carry out an effective political move to resolve Arab differences.

The Saudi newspaper *Al-Madinah* said today that this meeting, which will be chaired by Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, will be before the Arab summit conference and the fourth GCC summit which will be held in Doha.

Quoting a reliable source, the newspaper reported that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE foreign affairs minister, who mediated between Baghdad and Tehran before the convocation of the seventh session of the GCC ministerial council, will resume their mediation between the two countries shortly.

The source said the report which was presented on the previous visits by the two ministers was received with satisfaction by the ministerial council and that the first tour and the preparations for the next tour were the topic of discussion during the meetings of the eighth session of the GCC ministerial council which were held in At-Ta'if last week.

GCC To Stop Aid to States Restoring Israeli Ties

LD271024 Kuwait KUNA in English 1010 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 27 (KUNA) — The six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have decided to suspend economic and other aid to any country restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, the council's secretary-general 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah stated Saturday.

Bisharah told KUNA that the GCC Ministerial Council have unanimously resolved during its eight session held in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, August 22-24, to stop economic and other assistance to states restoring diplomatic ties with the Zionist entity.

KUWAIT

Sources Deny Attempt to Bomb U.S. Embassy

GF271415 Kuwait Al-Watan in Arabic 26 Aug 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Excerpt] Official sources have affirmed to *Al-Watan* the incorrectness of the report broadcast by the U.S. television network CBS last Wednesday that a group of terrorists supported by the Iranian Government were planning to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait following the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

These sources have told *Al-Watan* that the concerned authorities in the country have not received any contacts from the U.S. Embassy in the country or from any other U.S. authorities on this matter. The same sources ridiculed the report carried by the U.S. television network that the concerned U.S. authorities have contacted other Arab sides in an effort to prevent the terrorists from carrying out their plan. They said: The U.S. authorities would have had to contact us in Kuwait first so that we could make the necessary arrangements and take measures which are imposed by the international norms and laws concerning the protection of diplomatic institutions and organizations. The observers and political analysts in Kuwait do not rule out the possibility the report of the U.S. television network was fabricated by Zionist elements who want to tell the people and the U.S. people in particular that Kuwait's nationalistic position regarding the appointment of the ambassador was a result of pressures by external forces and has no relation with the question of Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause.

Deputy Premier Leaves for Damascus Talks

LD281152 Kuwait KUNA in English 1004 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 28 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad left early Sunday for Damascus on an Arab fence-mending short visit to Syria.

Shaykh Sabah is expected to be received by Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad and is scheduled to hold talks with his Syrian Counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam within the efforts initiated by the Gulf Cooperation Council states to heal Arab rifts.

The minister, who is accompanied by the director of his office Sulayman al-Marjan, was seen off at the airport by the undersecretary of the Foreign ministry, Rashid ar-Rashid, deputy chief of protocol Hamad al-'Ubaydi and the Syrian charge d'affaires here.

During a recent session, held in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia last week, the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman resolved to move quickly to soothe present Arab rifts and pave the way for the upcoming Arab summit conference scheduled to convene in Saudi Arabia next November.

Deputy Premier on Talks

LD290506 Kuwait KUNA in English 1719 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 28 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti deputy premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir returned here Sunday at the end of his short visit to Syria during which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Following his meeting with Al-Asad, in the northern Syrian summer resort of Latakia, a Syrian official source said "discussions dealt with latest developments in the region, the Arab conditions and means of improving them and issues of joint interest."

Shaykh Sabah stated upon arrival that he embarked on the visit on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council and that he had met

with President al-Asad and briefed him on the outcome of talks held during the GCC Ministerial Council.

He also conveyed the desire of the GCC states to set the appropriate Arab atmosphere before holding the Arab summit conference next November, so as to guarantee its success.

Shaykh Sabah said he sensed President al-Asad's appreciation for and interest in the GCC effort. He also sensed Al-Asad's keenness on reconciling viewpoints among Arab countries in the critical stage the Arab nation is passing through.

The Kuwaiti deputy premier also said although his meeting with al-Asad was beneficial and fruitful, he is aware of the difficulty of this mission in the present Arab conditions but he expressed the belief that "efforts should continue to preserve our existence in the confrontation with the Zionist challenge."

QATAR

Jordanian Royal Court Minister Arrives

GF280830 Doha QNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Doha, 28 Aug (QNA) — 'Amir Khammash, the Jordanian royal court minister, arrived in Doha this morning on a short visit to Qatar.

He was received at the airport by 'Isa Ghanim al-Kawwari, Qatari minister of information; and Dr Khalid 'Ubaydat, the Jordanian ambassador to Qatar.

Amir Receives Husayn's Message

GF280840 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0814 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Doha, 28 Aug (WAKH) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received today a written message from King Husayn of Jordan on the latest developments on the Arab arena and bilateral relations and means of bolstering them. The message was conveyed by Jordanian Royal Court Minister 'Amir Khammash during his meeting with the Qatari amir here this morning. The Jordanian minister arrived in Doha earlier today on a short visit to Qatar.

Jordanian Minister Leaves

GF281120 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 28 Aug (WAKH) — Jordanian Royal Court Minister 'Amir Khammash left Doha for home today after a short visit to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh Reports Begin's Intention to Resign

GF281356 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Dan Meridor, secretary of the Israeli enemy Cabinet, stated that Prime Minister Menahen Begin informed his Cabinet today that he intends to submit his resignation. Meridor stated that the ministers asked Begin to reconsider his decision. However, at the conclusion of the meeting, he reaffirmed his intention to resign. Meridor did not give any reason for this decision which came without prior warning.

People close to Begin stated that he has been depressed for the past few months due to the escalation of the number of casualties in the ranks of the Israeli forces in Lebanon.

U.S. Middle East Envoy Fairbanks in Jidda

LD262341 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2235 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Jidda, 26 Aug (SPA) — The deputy U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Richard Fairbanks, arrived in Jidda this evening on a short visit to the Kingdom during which he will hold talks with officials in the Kingdom dealing with U.S. efforts in Lebanon and with the situation in the area.

Foreign Minister Receives Fairbanks

LD271417 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Jidda, 27 Aug (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, conferred in his office at noon today with the American deputy envoy to the Middle East, Richard Fairbanks.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, the Kingdom's ambassador to Washington.

Fairbanks Leaves 28 August

GF282002 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] The deputy U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Richard Fairbanks, left Jidda this morning after a short visit to the Kingdom, during which he met with Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The U.S. official was seen off on departure by a representative of royal protocol and (David Essence), U.S. charge d'affaires in the Kingdom.

UAE

Jordanian Minister Arrives With Message

GF270842 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0742 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Aug (WAKH) — Jordanian Royal Court Minister 'Amir Khammash arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a 1-day visit to the UAE.

The Jordanian minister is carrying a message to His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from King Husayn dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Zayid Receives Husayn's Message

GF271938 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Aug (WAKH) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from King Husayn of Jordan on the current developments in the Arab arena and bilateral relations in addition to the issues of mutual concern.

The message was conveyed to Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparant and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, by Jordanian Royal Court Minister 'Amir Khammash during a meeting in Abu Dhabi today. The meeting was attended by 'Amir Shamut, Jordanian ambassador in the UAE.

Minister Leaves Abu Dhabi

GF280645 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0625 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 28 Aug (WAKH) — Jordanian Royal Court Minister 'Amir Khammash left Abu Dhabi this morning after a 1-day visit to the UAE as part of his tour of a number of countries in the region.

Egyptian Media on Begin's Resignation

MENA Report

NC281130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA) — Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin today emphasized his intention to resign his post. Israeli Radio said that Begin's resignation, which he announced during the Cabinet meeting today, means the resignation of the entire Israeli Government. The radio said that Begin's ministers asked him to change his mind about resigning but at the end of the session Begin emphasized that he will not change his mind. The spokesman for the opposition Labor Party declined to comment on the report and said that the party is waiting for an official statement in this respect.

Cairo Radio Analysis

NC281248 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Zaynab Salih's "News Analysis"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's decision to resign his post today took all the members of the Israeli Cabinet by surprise because Begin did not announce the reasons for this resignation. Begin's decision to resign follows by only 2 days the decision made by the TAMI party, a member of the ruling coalition, to withdraw from the government — a decision that affects the majority enjoyed by the Begin coalition in the Knesset.

The TAMI party's decision to withdraw from the government coalition detonated a political crisis in Israel and comes as a protest against the government's economic program.

It is worth mentioning that the Israeli Constitution stipulates that an Israeli government falls in the event its leader tenders his resignation. This takes effect 48 hours after the resignation is forwarded to the cabinet and following its approval by the head of state.

In case Begin officially tenders his resignation, one of two things can possibly happen: Either the head of state asks a Knesset member to form an alternative cabinet that enjoys a parliamentary majority or a law is promulgated that dissolves the Knesset and that declares new parliamentary elections. In this case, the Begin government turns into an interim one. No minister will be able to withdraw from the government or from the government coalition during this interim period and until the date of the new election.

AL-AHRAM, AL-JUMHURIYAH on Reagan Initiative

NC270640 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0425 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Press review]

[Text] In their editorials today, the newspapers *AL-Ahram* and *Al-Jumhuriyah* comment on U.S. President Reagan's revival of his peace initiative.

Under the title "So That Reagan's Initiative May Yield Fruit," *Al-Ahram* says: Only 4 days before the first anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace initiative, Reagan spoke about his initiative, emphasizing that it is still alive and that it is the only real framework available. The paper adds: However, the U.S. President also expressed his regret that Israel and its Arab neighbors have not seized the opportunity available.

The paper expresses its belief that Reagan's assertion that his initiative is still alive could rejuvinate the optimism the initiative raised when it was first propounded a year ago. However, the feeling of optimism will soon face the realities which the initiative encountered during the first year. The paper affirms that the most momentous and bitter realities which Reagan's initiative encountered have been the way Israel behaved in its invasion of Lebanon and its subsequent behavior, which strongly points to its intention to remain in southern Lebanon for a long time and to impose itself as an influential power in Lebanon's domestic policy. This is what the development of events that are taking place there actually points to. These developments include the danger of the withdrawal about which Israel is talking. This danger is actually the danger of its remaining there and not withdrawing.

The paper adds: During a large part of the year since the initiative was propounded, it appeared that U.S. diplomacy fell into a trap and believed that a solution to the new problem was a fundamental condition for tackling the original problems — a matter which led to a real freezing of the initiative throughout that year.

Al-Ahram concludes its article by saying: This situation means only one thing — Reagan's affirmation that his initiative is still alive requires vigorous positive action to make this living initiative effective, so that it can provide a practical opportunity for peace.

Commenting on the same subject under the title "Reagan's Initiative Reanimated," *Al-Jumhuriyah* draws attention to the fact that President Reagan declared his Middle East peace initiative about 1 year ago. Israel immediately rejected it, whereas the Arab reaction varied: Some opposed it, some expressed reservations about it, and some reluctantly supported it.

The paper points out that for a whole year, everybody dealt with the U.S. initiative as if it were stillborn and had no chance of surviving. Everybody almost forgot about it. The paper adds: However, the U.S. President yesterday again reminded the world of his initiative, saying that it is still alive and is available to the parties desiring to participate in the peace negotiations. The Reagan initiative, which calls for freezing the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories and for the establishment of a Palestinian autonomous entity, reminds us of the link with Jordan.

The paper then asks: Are the present circumstances different from what they were a year ago so as to provide an atmosphere that can contribute to the survival of the initiative? The paper goes on to say: If President Reagan yesterday expressed regret

that the Arabs and the Israelis have not taken advantage of his initiative, then Washington must realize quite well that simply putting stands on record and announcing good will will not be sufficient to establish peace in the Middle East.

The paper concludes its article by expressing its conviction that the United States has the influence to enable it to overcome the obstinacy of the party that is adopting a hardline and disregarding president reagan's initiative. This party is Israel.

Al-Baz on Mubarak-Senate Delegation Talks

NC271022 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Following a meeting held by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today with a U.S. Senate delegation, Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary, stated that the president briefed the delegation on the priorities of Egyptian policy. The delegation showed much understanding of this policy and its objectives.

Dr al-Baz said that the president discussed the following with the delegation: the Lebanese issue and the need for achieving a complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces, the Palestinian issue and the need for the resumption of efforts to settle this issue comprehensively, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Al-Baz Views Lebanon, Chad After Meeting Mubarak

NC271504 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Alexandria, 27 Aug (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Egypt is closely watching the situation in the area. He said, concerning the Lebanese issue, that we believe that there is an urgent need to quickly solve the situation in Lebanon in a way that will enable Lebanon to regain its control and sovereignty on its territory and to reestablish national unity within the Lebanese family. This will enable us to devote our efforts to the Palestinian issue because we also believe it is an urgent issue which cannot shelve or ignore.

In a statement following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Al-Baz sid that each day that passes without progress in the Palestinian issue leads to negative repercussions and complications that will make any progress in the future very difficult.

Concerning the situation in Chad, Al-Baz said that Egypt believes that any foreign intervention in Chad will destabilize the situation in that sensitive part of Africa. He added that it is our duty to inform and advise all parties without exception to refrain from interfering in Chad's affairs and to let the Chadian people find their own way to solve their problems. We believe that any partition of Chad, legal or de facto, will entail dire consequences and set a precedent that might spread to other countries. He affirmed that it is in the interest of all states not to interfere in the affairs of Chad.

'Ali Interview on Egyptian-Israeli Relations

NC281339 Cairo Mena in Arabic 1201 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has emphasized that recalling the Egyptian ambassador, or his return to Tel Aviv, is basically continegent on Egypt's outlook on the Israeli Government's dedication to the spirit of peace. He said that it does not seem that the ambassador will return soon because the Israeli Government's actions are still far removed from peace.

In an interview to be published by the weekly magazine *Rose al-Yusuf* tomorrow, Monday, Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that it is possible for us to sum up Egypt's attitude toward Israel as follows: first, rejection of the policy that Israel is pursuing in the West Bank and in the Gaza sector — a policy that is based on building settlements, effecting a democragphic change, and imposing harsh conditions that induce some people to immigrate; second, the need for Israel's withdrawal from Jerusalem and the Golan Heights; and lastly, Israel's partial withdrawal from the Golan must conform to a timetable for a full and final withdrawal from Lebanon.

In the interview, Kamal Hasan 'Ali asserted that Egypt's concept of comprehensive peace is no longer confined to the achievements of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. This concept transcends these achievements to a peace that will engulf the whole area through the liberation of all the land that is still occupied in Lebanon, the West Bank, the Gaza sector, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights.

With regard to the state of affairs existing between Egypt and Syria, Kamal Hasan 'Ali asserted that no contacts have taken place. However, he mentioned that such contacts might be held indirectly.

He noted that Egypt had endorsed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement — despite the fact that this treaty does not fulfill the aspirations of the Lebanese people and of the Arab nation — on the premise that this treaty affords an opportunity for the return of stability to Lebanon away from internal polarization and from sectarian conflicts. Furthermore, the resolution of the Lebaense issue opens the door to the solution of the Palestinian issue.

Dealing with the Syrian stand on the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, Kamal Hasan 'Ali mentioned that it is imperative that Syria take into account its legitimate demands within the context of the issue, that is, the liberation of the Golan. It is also permissible for Israel to make its withdrawal from Lebanon contingent upon Syria's withdrawal. The Israeli Government must also determine a timetable for its full withdrawal under the treaty, which tends to induce Syria to withdraw.

'Ali elucidated that if Syria is not reassured about its security safeguards and about the fulfillment of its goal of recovering the Golan Heights, then the perpetuation of the Israeli and the Syrian presence tends to perpetuate the partitioning of Lebanon. Furthermore, failure to resolve the issue, while the Syrian and Israeli forces face each other in the Al-Biqa', might escalate the

military situation between the two sides, which would embroil the area in more intricate circumstances, in addition to the possibilities of an international confrontation in Lebanon.

In the interview, Kamal Hasan 'Ali also dealt with the situation within the PLO. He expressed his regret over what is happening within the PLO. He added that whenever signs of a relaxation with regard to the resolution of the Palestinian issue loom on the horizon, a PLO element comes up and does something tending to abort all Palestinian or Arab efforts. There can be no doubt that the principal cause of such actions is foreign interference in the PLO's actions and decisions.

Speaking of the Arab situation, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the deterioration of the Arab situation tends to restore unity of thought and action. [sentence as received] He said that the Arab nation has never in the past stood so much in need of Arab solidarity as it now does.

He said in conclusion: The steps that Egypt has taken in the Arab Levant and Maghreb — in extending equal support to the Arab causes from the position of (?pan-Arab) responsibility — affirm Egypt's dedication to serving as the bridge for the restoration of diplomatic and natural relations between itself and its Arab brothers.

Ghali on Chad, Return of Envoy to Israel

NC270745 Cairo MENA in English 0740 GMT 27 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA) — *"Al-Ahram"* leads its front page news with news agency reports from Ndjamena, Chad, on the talks French Defence Minister Charles Hernu held with Chadian President Hissein Habre who asserted to him the gravity of the situation in Chad. The Chadian information minister declared that two columns of insurgents were moving, one in a southward direction and the other in a south-eastern direction from the captured oasis town of Faya-Largeau in the north. The minister declared that the rebel insurgents were supported by 100 Libyan tanks and 1500 Libyan regulars.

In Cairo, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali declared that Egypt is against the partitioning of Chad and of any African state. Egypt is for the territorial integrity and security of Chad's territory and legality in the country, and stands against foreign intervetnion, *"Akhbar al-Yawm"* reported on its front page. Ghali expressed the hope that a peaceful settlement of the Chad problem would be reached.

He described relations between Egypt and Israel as relations of cold peace and said that Egypt is seeking new avenues of communication with Israel to achieve its withdrawal from Lebanon and to resolve the Palestinian problem. Ghali said the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel was related to changing the political climate created in the area by Israel's persistence in occupying Lebanese territory and its denial of the rights of the people of Palestine.

Ghali Calls for Israeli Withdrawal From Lebanon

NC261231 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt is calling for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and is against partial withdrawal unless it is a step toward total withdrawal. In an interview with Cairo radio, Dr Ghali added that the Lebanese problem arose as a result of failure to solve the Palestinian problem. Therefore, Egypt has focused on a solution to the Lebanese problem and a total Israeli withdrawal in order to concentrate on solving the Palestinian problem — the crux of the conflict in the area — to achieve comprehensive peace.

Regarding the escalation of the conflict in Chad, Dr Ghali said that on the basis of the OAU statement, Egypt rejects the attempt to partition any African state. Egypt always supports the unity and territorial integrity of Chad and opposes attempts to interfere in its internal affairs. Dr Ghali expressed Egypt's hope that a peaceful settlement will be found for the Chadian problem so that the parties will not have to use military force.

Replying to a question about Egyptian-Arab relations, Dr Ghali said that relations between Egypt and its Arab brothers are continuously improving. Egypt affirms that this improvement is one of the objectives it wants to achieve. It is doing this out of adherance to all international conventions and on the basis of its national and Arab responsibilities.

Deputy Minister Leaves for Palestinian Conference

NC280952 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0946 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, Aug 28 (MENA) — Assistant Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid left Cairo this morning for Geneva in order to preside over the Egyptian delegation to the 12-day international conference on the Palestinian issue which is due to start its meetings tomorrow, Monday, under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mubarak Discusses Economic Issues With Aides

NC271614 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din today. The meeting was also attended by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the minister of finance, the minister of state for foreign affairs, the minister of planning, the minister of economy, the minister of investment and international cooperation, the minister of reconstruction, the minister of state for agriculture, the minister of supply and internal trade, the minister of industry, and the Foreign Ministry first under secretary.

Following the meeting, [Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary] Dr Usamah al-Baz said:

[Begin recording] The main purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the implementation of the plan in its two parts. The first part dealt with internal economy, especially the issues that concern the broad masses, such as prices, commodities, utilities, and housing. The president was anxious to emphasize that the projects that we planned and have begun to implement to solve the problems of the masses should be followed up and implemented.

The second part dealt with Egypt's foreign trade transactions and its economic cooperation with other states, because this has a direct bearing on the internal economic situation. There is a clear interrelationship between the internal economic situation and our foreign trade transactions. This interrelationship has a bearing on our balance of payments, imports, exports, and other things. [end recording]

Al-Baz said that the key issue that concerns the president and the state is the issue of increasing production, providing commodities, improving their quality, and controlling consumption. He added that there is no intention to encroach on subsidies and that there is determination to implement the 5-year development plan. The president was also keen to follow up the objectives of the plan and he inquired about how the followup and rationalization process was being done. For this purpose, the president gave instructions to the officials to help Egyptian producers with all means to enable them to improve production by giving them the necessary loans to modernize and replace their machinery.

Dr al-Baz emphasized the role of information personnel in urging the citizens to buy national products and the role of industry personnel of both the public and private sectors in participating in improving production. He also emphasized the role of consumers in buying local commodities to encourage local products.

Dr al-Baz said that the president gave directives that there should be constant control of prices so that no new burdens would be added on the masses. He added that the government has set up controls against speculators and has established a system to rationalize the prices of commodities based on increasing supply.

Twelve Suspects Confess to 'Terrorist Plot'

NC270735 Cairo MENA in English 0725 GMT 27 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 27 (MENA) — Twelve suspects in a recently-discovered leftist terrorist plot made detailed confessions about their design, sources of finance, and explosives and literature seized in their possession, reports *"Akhbar al-Yawm"* in its top billing and leading front page story. The state security prosecution is about to complete questioning of the suspects and is currently scrutinizing the documents and exhibits seized in their possession, and will summon other elements connected with the plot for questioning.

The security authorities seized a quantity of ammunition, explosives, electrical detonators and important documents and literature including sketches of the lay-outs of the targets the terrorists intended to blast and papers explaining their terrorist ideology. They had intended to spread panic among citizens in the streets by carrying out sabotage operations.

President Addresses Citizens on Gulf War
JN271811 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that the Iraqis have proved that they rise to defend the Arabs and Arab women wherever they exist in the same manner as they rise to defend the Iraqi men and women when injustice is done to them. The Iraqis, he added, were tested in modern history and their old historical characteristics emerged whenever the appropriate circumstances were available.

Addressing a group of citizens today from Wasit Governorate in central Iraq who donated gold and money to bolster the will to fight, the president said: It seems that the law of life stipulates that sacrificing blood is invitable for an extraordinary construction. This is the history of nations and peoples and this is the history of Iraq and the Arab nation. He added: This path is not chosen by the peoples, but is an inevitable path dictated by others' envy, counteraction, and vile deeds.

He stressed that the new wall protecting the Iraqis from the Persians' evils is the Iraqi people's faith and their chests, which abound with this faith and with justice in defense of their homeland, principles, and honor — and this is the case now.

In his address the president indicated that in the first Al-Qadisiyah all the Arabs fought the arrogant Persians under the banner of Islam and settled it in favor of principles. He added: Perhaps the Arabs at that time realized that the Iraqis alone could not fight the wild Persians, whereas now they know that the Iraqis alone can fight the Persians on their behalf. Perhaps it is for this reason that not all the Arabs came to fight the arrogant Persians. If so, we can understand their stand and can spare them for more difficult tasks.

He expressed confidence that all the Arabs are with the Iraqis even if their swords are not. He added: The free people can read about what exists in the Arab homeland and the conditions this homeland is experiencing to realize why the Arab swords were not with the Iraqis in this Al-Qadisiyah as they should have been.

He emphasized that the Iraqis alone are enough to fight the arrogant Persians and said: I largely believe, beyond any background calculations contrary to this belief, that the Iraqis will reap victory and that the arrogant Persians will fall before attaining their objectives.

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that the arrogant Persians, headed by their arch-charlatan, try every now and then to speak with exaggeration and blare out hysterical statements threatening Iraq as if they had not fulfilled their wicked promises. He added: We know they have used all weapons and mthods and are still fighting on the borders despite the elapse of 3 years of war. However, he said, when you decided to enter their lands to chase their aggressor Army, you did so in defense of your country. You then returned to your land to assert that you have no ambitions against others' lands. You left them fighting at the border area. They began this fighting on 4 September 1980 and returned to the borders on 20 June 1982. They are still there. Are the Iraqi people then not enough to fight the arrogant Persians?

President Saddam Husayn stessed that the arch-charlatan will discover additional things in the same way as he has previously discovered that delusion is still a heavy burden on him. This charlatan, he added, will fall and his forehead will touch the filthy place he has chosen for himself without subjugating Iraq.

The president indicated that if the arrogant Iranians had managed to enter the Gulf they would have taken our Gulf women to Tehran as captives. He repeated that if the arrogant Tehran rulers had managed to lay their hands on Iraq and the Gulf they would have taken the Iraqi and Gulf women as captives to Tehran.

He also said that an Arab ruler blamed Saddam Husayn for saying that the Iranians would take the Gulf women as captives to Tehran. He added: I am glad for this Arab ruler's censure, but I would be happier if this Arab draws his sword to assure the Gulf and Iraqi women that they are well protected because he and others are fighting in defense of principles and values. Blaming others without drawing his sword is not enough to protect the Gulf and Iraqi women. We would also like to say that we do not distinguish between women in the Gulf and Iraq or between the Arab people in the Gulf and Iraq.

Saddam: Al-Asad Assisting Iranian Regime
JN281845 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that Syrian and Zionist advisers are giving military advice to the Iranian regime. He indicated that Hafiz al-Asad has deluded Khomeyni into believing that he can topple the Iraqi regime, and stressed that Al-Asad is historically responsible for the dead Iranians, the Iraqi martyrs, and the plight he brought to his brother Khomeyni.

Addressing a group of officers and soldiers as well as Kurdish fighters today upon awarding them medals of valor in appreciation of their heroism in defending Iraq against the Iranian aggression, the president said that the Syrian ruler convinced Khomeyni of the feasibility of invading Iraq in the northern sector. However, he added, the Iraqis heroically fought the Iranian forces and turned every inch of Iraq's Kurdistan into blazing fire under their feet.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that the Iranian forces will pay a heavier price in Kurdistan than the one they paid in the land of Basra and Maysan, adding that these forces will not be able to achieve any goal for which they are planning in their aggression against Iraq. He pointed out that Khomeyni, who lived in Iraq for 14 years after being expelled by the shah, returned to Iran but could not return the favor done him. He imagines he can topple the Iraqi regime and turn it into a part of the great empire over which he wants to rule. Saddam Husayn added that the suspect links in the Iranian revolution managed to grasp authority there and that Khomeyni began to accuse patriots and those opposing his policy of being traitors and U.S. agents. The president noted that Khomeyni used to call America the arch-Satan, but his relations with the Americans are now on their way to improvement.

The president said that Khomeyni imagines that he can, with a magic wand, topple Iraq and turn it into a subservient country and also turn the Gulf into a subservient area so that he could become a great emperor. However, instead of returning the Arab islands which the shah had usurped and instead of correcting the mistakes he committed against Iraq, Khomeyni kept the Arab islands and began to seek expansion at the expense of Iraq and the Gulf.

The president indicated that Khomeyni found in Iraq a strong barrier to the establishment of his empire. Therefore, he began shelling Iraqi border posts and carrying out air raids until he began his well known war on 4 September 1980. In view of this situation, Iraq had no other alternative but to fight. It fought and confined Khomeyni in the place he deserved. He remained confined to his place after the Iranian peoples, too, discovered his bad nature.

Regarding Khomeyni's continuous threats, President Saddam Husayn said that this false emperor is daily threatening to punish the Arab rulers and the Gulf people. He added: Let Khomeyni know that the people of Iraq are people who live and will continue to live on fighting for the sake of rights until injustice is toppled. He stressed that the Iraqis have put Khomeyni to the test so that his false nature could be revealed, adding that fire is now devouring Khomeyni's worn-out seat from every side.

The president noted that the longer the war lasts, the faster Khomeyni falls into the crematorium and the swamp of vice which he deseves because he is an arch-charlatan and because he harmed the people who hosted him for 14 years.

President Saddam Husayn emphasized that after the recent Iranian offensives against Iraq were destroyed, the minds of Khomeyni's group began to wake up. He added that Khomeyni is not only a backward man of religion, but also a maneuvering politician and a devil who knows that he has implicated himself in imaginary things. He indicated that Khomeyni cannot go back on his threats because such a retreat would be a heavy burden that would crush him and because the Iranian army and people are discovering, day after day, that there is no reason for continuing the fight between two neighborly countries. He stressed that the Iraqis can protect their country and teach the enemy the lesson it deserves.

Speaking about honoring one of his bodyguards, the president revealed an incident in which he was involved in March 1982 during the Ash-Shush-Dezful battles when this fighter behaved with courage and responsibility to protect the president from danger. The presidenct indicated that when he and members of the Armed Forces General Command took off in a helicopter to visit the forward battlefront, their helicopter entered an area within the range of Iraqi-Iranian artillery. Sensing the danger, the pilot landed and the president and his companions disembarked. By that time, an Iranian helicopter gunship was near them. When this gunship was 400 meters from them, it aimed its guns toward them. It was then that this fighter threw himself on the president to protect him. However, at the last moment, the Iranian gunship decided not to open fire because it decided to fly toward another nearby Iranian aircraft, which was shot down a few minutes earlier, in an attempt to rescue its pilot.

Medals of valor were awarded to 14 officers and soldiers as well as to 51 fighters from the Kurdish people in the Kurdistan area. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, Presidential Office Director Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im, Chief of Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, and several Armed Forces General Command officers attended the decoration ceremony.

Communiques on 25-28 Aug Military Activities

Number 1,198

JN261555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military communique states that Iraqi fighter aircraft and helicopters today carried out fierce raids against enemy troop concentrations in the northern sector, scored direct hits, inflicted on the enemy losses in life and equipment, and returned safely to base. The communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command here today adds that our forward units in the central sector struck an Iranian troop concentration with their weapons, killing many and destroying two tanks, two guns, and one stockpile of hardware. They also destroyed one stockpile of hardware east of Basra.

Military communique No 1,198 also says that the Iranian regime today shelled Basra, Mandali, Qurahtu, Khurmal and their suburbs, damaging two houses in Qurahtu and setting several orchards in Mandali on fire. The Following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,198 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces continue their courageous activities in the operational theaters against the forces of the racist Iranian regime. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units struck an enemy troop concentration opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing many and destroying two tanks, two guns, and one stockpile of hardware. Columns of smoke were seen billowing from the destroyed enemy military hardware.

2. Our daring fighter aircraft and helicopters today carried out fierce raids against enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. All our fighter aircraft and helicopters returned safely to base after successfully completing their missions.

3. One stockpile of hardware was destroyed east of Basra.

4. The evil Khomeyniite clique today intermittently shelled Basra, Mandali, Qurahtu, Khurmal and their suburbs, damaging two houses in Qurahtu and setting several orchands in Mandali on fire.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 August 1983

Number 1,199

JN271621 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)— An Iraqi military communique states that Iraqi helicopter gunships today attacked Iranian positions in the northern sector, inflicting losses in men and equipment. Communique No 1,199, issued here today by the Armed Forces General Command, adds that all our helicopters returned safely to base. It indicates that the Iranian forces' losses during the past 24 hours amounted to two killed and two vehicles and one hardware stockpile destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield. The communique added that the Iranian forces shelled Khanaqin and Mandali and their suburbs and the border subdistrict of Ash-Shihabi, demolishing one house and setting fire to one orchard in Mandali. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,199 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For the sake of safeguarding the Iraqi people's might and right to sovereignty and independence, our valiant forces are continuing their activities againsnt the covetous Khomeyniite enemy forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing two and destroying two vehicles and one hardware stockpile.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships today attacked the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting losses in both men and equipment. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base.

3. Last night and today the vile Iranian regime shelled Khanaqin and Mandali and their suburbs, as well as Ash-Shihabi, demolishing one house and setting fire to one orchard in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 August 1983

Number 1,200

JN281654 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,200 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces will continue their valiant activities against the enemy and their brave confrontation of the arrogant Persians and the plans of their arch-charlatan Khomeyni. The great Iraqi victory will remain ours, God willing. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened artillery fire on enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing 19, wounding others, and destroying 2 vehicles — 1 of which was carrying a 106-mm gun — and 1 hardware stockpile.

2. Formations of our capable fighter planes and helicopter gunships today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting massive losses in men, vehicles, and equipment. All our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing 11 and destroying 1 vehicle, 1 infantry position, and 3 observation posts.

4. One of our forward units pounded an enemy patrol opposite our positions east of Basra, killing several troops and destroying one infantry position and one observation post.

5. One vehicle, two infantry positions, and four hardware stockpiles were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

6. This morning the suspect clique ruling Iran shelled Ash-Shihabi and its suburbs, damaging civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 August 1983

Commander on Naval Activities Against Iran

JN271120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA) — The Iraqi Naval and coastal defense force commander has said that the destruction of four Iranian navy targets last Wednesday shows the capability of the Iraqi naval force to deal crushing blows to enemy naval targets under all circumstances and regardless of enemy precautions.

On Wednesday Iraqi naval forces were able to destroy four Iranian naval targets and shoot down one enemy fighter which tried to raid Al-Bakr and the oil terminal [Al-'Amiq] harbors.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in the southern sector today, the commander added that attacking and destroying of the four Iranian targets was accomplished through precise coordination between the Iraqi Navy and Air Force despite the intensive air cover provided by the enemy.

The Iraqi commander added that the blow dealt to the enemy naval targets was carried out at 0800 and 0802 on Wednesday after spotting six cargo ships carrying military equipment and ammunition and protected by six enemy navy ships and intensive air cover to ensure their arrival via the Khor-e Musa Canal enroute to Khomeyni habor. The Iraqi commander asserted that the new Iraqi blow confused the enemy and made it send one of its fighters to raid Al-Bakr and the oil terminal harbors, but it was shot down by the Iraqi air defense wepaons 3 km away from the two harbors. It fell near the destroyed naval targets in the Arab Gulf.

Official Ridicules Iranian Statement on Pipeline

JN271940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA) — A responsible source has ridiculed recent statements by Iranian officials in which they said that Iran is studying plans to bomb the Iraqi oil pipeline which passes through Turkey. He said that these statements indicate their intense ignorance.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf said that, although their ignorance has become known to several states and peoples in the region, Iranian officials surprise the world every day with an additional ignorant statement.

The British newspaper *Lloyd's List* cited Iranian Foreign Under Secretary Ahmad 'Azizi as saying in a recent interview that his country is currently studying plans to strafe the Iraqi pipeline, which carries oil from Kirkuk to Turkey's Dortyol port, within the next few weeks. As-Sahhaf said that anyone who has a little knowledge of geography knows that is absolutely impossible.

He added that by their new statement, which came after they were exposed and after they had suffered a bitter defeat in their military attempt in the Hajj 'Umran area in the northern sector, the Iranian rulers want to depict this matter as possible and that the raid was only postponed. He stressed that these deceptive Iranian statements are only an attempt to draw the attention of world public opinion once again to their ignorance and lies which reveal their inability and confusion and expose their miserable intentions and void allegations.

Minister Leaves For Geneva Conference on Palestine

JN281102 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA) — Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, today left Baghdad for Geneva to head the Iraqi delegation to the international conference on the Palestine cause. The conference is scheduled to begin in Geneva tomorrow with representatives of 95 countries participating.

Media View Begin's Intention To Resign

Amman Radio Report

JN281240 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin informed his Cabinet today that he intends to resign from his post as prime minister. Radio Israel said Begin informed Cabient members of his decision at the beginning of its weekly session today but had not yet communicated his decision to the Israeli president.

The resignation takes place in wake of the decision by the TAMI movement to withdraw from the coalition government as a result of economic measures taken by the government and the failure of efforts to prevent the movement from withdrawing. Aharon Uzan, minister of labor and social affairs and TAMI movement member, did not attend today's Cabinet session. The resignation is also a result of the deteriorating economic situation in Israel, differences among the ministers on reducing the budget, the effects which emerged from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and Begin's health condition.

An Israeli Government spokesman stated that Begin refused a request by the ministers to change his mind about resigning in view of the political and security circumstances through which Israel is passing. Begin, however, insisted on his stand.

Radio Israel mentioned that Begin left today's Cabinet session with the ministers who are members of the Herut Party who tried to convince him to change his mind.

In accordance with Israeli law, the resignation will become effective after it is commuted to the president of Israel, who will try to form a coalition government with the opposition parties or call for early legislative elections. In the second case, Begin's government would become a caretaker government and no minister or any party in this government could withdraw.

29 August JORDAN TIMES

JN290901 Amman Jordan Times in English 29 Aug 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Minus One Terrorist"]

[Text] It should make little difference to us in the Arab World whether Menachem Begin resigns or stays on as Israeli prime minister, for the Arabs' conflict with Israel has never really been personal and is not likely to be so as long as the shape of the Middle East remains as at present. The roots of the Palestine problem, we all should be reminded, lie in a Zionist ideology that is too narrow, racist and self-righteous to be able to accommodate the Palestinian people's historic and inalienable rights to their homeland, and in which Begin plays the part of only one practising believer.

To project Begin as the great leader who could achieve for his people spectacular but costless victories, if only over the Arabs, is equally wrong. Begin was, and still is, the mad leader of hooligans that his fellow Zionist David Ben-Gurion said he was; and his leadership of Israel since 1977 cannot be but a big black mark in Jewish history until this day and beyond.

A former terrorist turned politician and prime minister of Israel, Begin invokes the memory of the bloodshed and destruction he has caused in Palestine and the rest of the Middle East since the early 1940s. In the last years of the British Mandate in Palestine, he directed anti-British operations that included the bombing of Jerusalem's King David Hotel in which almost 100 people died. Later, he graduated the terrorists who were to massacre hundreds of Palestinians and drive the rest away from their homes and land. In 1967, he was a member of the cabinet which ordered the attack against Jordan, Syria and Egypt. It was him who annexed Arab Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and who is now pursuing every conceivable expansionist plan to take over the rest of the occupied territories. Begin of course would not stop at that: He also had to destroy the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Tammuz in 1981, and to send his army into Lebanon in the summer of 1982 to kill thousands of Lebanese, and Palestinians and his own people, for no good reason at all except perhpas to satisfy his and that of his friend Sharon's thirst for blood and hegemony.

If go Begin must, let him do so, and quickly. Except perhaps for his Likud coalition partners, who out of necessity share with him dangerous visions of the "Eretz Israel" that will never exist, not many, either here in the Arab World or in the rest of the globe, will want to shed tears over him, we promise. Begin's departure may not actually change much, but the world will no doubt be a better place with one less prime minister-terrorist.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B, AD-DUSTUR, AR-RA'Y

JN291108 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Begin and His Possible Resignation," *Sawt ash-Sha'b* says: Undoubtedly, there are numerous reasons for Begin's desire to resign, some of them related to Menahim Begin personally and some to the political and economic hardships facing Israel which have increased during the Likud's rule. In fact, Begin's desire to resign is connected with the crisis of confidence encountering the Likud bloc due to the negative results of the Lebanon war on both the internal and external levels on the one hand and the deteriorating economic crisis on the other. This crisis, with its heavy burden on the Israeli individual, indicates the failure of the Begin government's economic program and the failure of the Likud policies in tackling the hardships which Israel is facing.

Sawt ash-Sha'b adds: The Likud party's conflict with the TAMI party, which declared its withdrawal from the government after its leader was convicted of corruption, was the final blow and deprived the Likud of three seats in the Knesset and eliminated its ability to maneuver. This left the Likud with a majority of only one vote. Despite the fact that Begin's decision, or intention to resign, could be a maneuver, past months have witnessed a decline in Begin's leadership and popularity. Even

his ability to rule and to make decisions as well as his mental condition were subject to ridicule in the Knesset.

Begin's absence from the government does not indicate a decisive change in Israeli policy, for Begin was able, during his 5 years in office, to entrench religious fanaticism and racial extremism in the Israeili policy, particularly against the Arabs inside and outside the occupied territory.

Sawt ash-Sha'b adds: Begin's decisions which emanated from such fanaticism and racism prevent any maneuvering by any future government in Israel. The decisions which reject bartering peace for land and which consider the land of the West Bank and Gaza as liberated Israeli territories and open for large-scale Israeli settlement, the decision to annex Jerusalem and establishing settlements in it, in addition to establishing settlements in Hebron, the annexation of the Golan, the Camp David accords, and the Israeli concept of Palestinian autonomy will lead to closing the door to peace in the Middle East for good. Furthermore, the duration of Begin's rule has also witnessed domination by religious parties and sects over not only the government but also over public life in Israel.

Sawt ash-Sha'b concludes: Begin's resignation may once again allow a reshuffling of cards and coalitions in Israel. The assumption of power by any political bloc will probably be accompanied by an explicit political commitment to preserve the Begin's policy, particularly that related to the annexation of the occupied Arab territories, settlement, disavowing Palestinian rights, continuing the policy of force, and foiling the possibility of peace in the Middle East.

Under the headline "An Expression of Crisis," *Ad-Dustur* says: Regardless of Begin's next step, whether it is a retreat from his decision to resign or the submission of his resignation officially, this step will not alter the fact that it expresses a serious crisis which exceeds any personal justifications or reasons which Begin may officially include in his letter of resignation. We are certain that Begin's reisgnation, if it is officially announced, will not change Israel's expansionist and aggressive policy toward the Arab nation. The bloody record which Begin will leave behind will not be erased by his departure, because Begin's political life, extremism, and great enmity toward the Arabs are the practical implementation of the Zionist idea on which Israel was established.

Ad-Dustur adds: Begin, who might leave his office today or tomorrow to someone else from his very extreme political party or to someone in the Labor Party who is no less aggressive and arrogant, will leave behind a very comlicated situation on the economic, political, and social levels. This is in addition to the lessons and implications which the resignation carries, given that Begin represents the last of a Zionist generation whose rulers were weaned on aggressiveness emanating from the Zionist movement's spirit and the teachings of its extremists. Begin, who might resign today, will go while the Zionist dream is approaching a deadend and the Zionist scheme is suffering from a series of its own deadly crises.

Ad-Dustur concludes: One thing which should not be overlooked by anyone from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf is that Begin's resignation and his replacement by someone from either the Likud or the Labor parties will not bring forth a single change in the reality of aggression, because the Tel Aviv rulers base their aggressive behavior and acts against us on a firm and well-designed Zionist strategy which aims to Judaize the land, evict the Palestinian people, erase the Arab character of Palestine, and occupy more Arab territory. Begin's resignation and the assumption of his duties by someone else is only a tactical move in this hostile strategy.

Under the healdine "The Zionist Nightmare," *Ar-Ra'y* says: Begin's announcement of intention to resign reflects confusion and disorder inside Israel and affirms that Begin has become incapable of running the affairs of the Zionist entity under the present regional and international circumstances. Although it is still early to talk about Begin's replacement, if he does actually resign, we are confident that any future government will face the same fate and will be obliged in the end to declare its failure to acheive the aggressive objectives which the Israeli rulers are seeking at the expense of the region's peoples and peace, security, and stability in the world.

Ar-Ra'y wonders: What can change if the next government pursues the building of new settlements in the occupied Arab territories and implements its plan to vacate these territories of their legitimate inhabitants? What can change if the next government continues to keep the Israeli invasion forces in Lebanon and insists on having both peace and land at the same time?

Ar-Ra'y adds: Today's world has become aware that the main element foiling peace efforts in the region is not connected with a certain Israeli government as much as it is with the established objectives of the Zionist entity's strategy in the Arab region. The world has also become aware that peace in the Middle East has only one course, which is firm confrontation of Israeli ambitions that have no limits and that are aimed not only at the Arab region but extend to the point of becoming almost a nightmare which affects the whole world.

Ar-Ra'y concludes: The time is ripe for the world to work sincerely and tirelessly for removing this nightmare and erasing its traces. It is also high time for us Arabs not to be satisfied with watching and playing the role of the goat waiting to be slaughtered.

Newspapers Comment on Reagan Statements

AD-DUSTUR on Plan Anniversary

JN270856 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, *Ad-Dustur* says: With the approach of the first anniversary of the Reagan plan for the Middle East, the U.S. President has again reminded us of that plan, which has collected much dust throughout the past year. While recalling this plan, which was weakened from the very beginning by U.S. hesitation and decisive Israeli rejection, it seems that President Reagan thinks the Arabs still believe in U.S. credibility, despite

the chain of U.S. reverses on the positive point, which might be the only one in the plan, namely, the problem of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

A few months after the declaration of the plan, Washington hurried to revive the memorandum on strategic understanding with Israel and supported Israel's stance on settlements which, in U.S. Administration's view, do not constitute a threat to peace in the Middle East. More than all this, and after using the veto against a draft resolution at the Security Council on preventing the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, President Reagan's government recently provided Israel with 75 sophisticated F-16 planes, emphasizing its blatant bias toward Israel and continuous material and political support for the policies of expansion, aggression, annihilation, and usurpation of Arab rights.

Ad-Dustur continues: On the situation in Lebanon, since the declaration of the plan last September, the U.S. Administration has proved its inability to put pressure on Israel to make it withdraw from the country, which was a testing ground for the United States' ability and credibility to fulfill its international commitments and a criterion for the seriousness of its peace efforts in the Middle East. A full year of U.S. fumbling and reverses on a number of declared U.S. principles, foremost being the settlements problem and Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, confirms that President Reagan's recalling of his plan is intended only to avoid the blame, accusations of negligence and bias toward Israel, which is a characteristic of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Ad-Dustur concludes: If the U.S. President is earnest in reviving his plan and sincerely intends to work for just and comprehensive peace in the region, he must first put economic and military pressure on Israel to acheive a complete withdrawl from Lebanon and freeze Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories as a first move toward regaining confidence and credibility in the United States. Then he must to begin work with the sincere and unbiased intention to achieve just peace in the region. Otherwise, talk on reviving the plan or U.S. efforts will be a big deception.

AR-RA'Y on Settlements Issue

JN280958 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Electoral game," *Ar-Ra'y* says: What does President Reagan hope to gain from the new and old ideas? Does he hope to regain confidence in his plan and his administration's policy toward the region? What advantage can be gained through these ideas even if they do stem from the Fes summit resolutions? U.S. practices killed that advantage as a result of the U.S. veto backing the settlement policy and the occupation of territory by force. Is there any use in President Reagan now describing the settlements as being an obstacle to peace after supporting them by the veto and preventing the adoption of an international resolution on their removal? And how can President Reagan convince anybody that his plan is still alive after the U.S. veto killed it and any confidence in U.S. intentions?

Ar-Ra'y adds: So far, the motive behind President Reagan's introduction of these ideas into his plan and his radio statements yesterday appears to be an electoral motive to delude the Arabs into thinking that a solution can be achieved only by the United States. As soon as this aim is achieved and the U.S. image in the Arab arena improves, the Reagan administration will hurry to play this card in the U.S. arena, terming it a great victory for the U.S. President which will place him in a better position before the voters. In other words, we say that the ideas propagated by the U.S. Administration are an electoral game, and the Arabs are to be used in the preparation of this game. To acheive this objective, it makes no difference if one or more paragraphs from the Fes resolutions is quoted and introduced into the Reagan plan and if the U.S. President, in his broadcast address, describes the settlements as being an obstacle to peace. These expressions may titillate Arab feelings and make them forget the veto which presented the occupied territory as a gift to the aggressors and which aimed to liquidate the core of the cause, i.e., the land.

Ar-Ra'y continues: Since words are the most the U.S. Administration can offer the Arabs, while deeds are offered to Israel and from which Israel dervies all kinds of material and moral support to achieve its ambitions, any new or old ideas introduced into the Reagan plan or any expression introduced into an address will have no impact on Israeli practices. Consequently, these ideas and expressions will not enrage the Jewish voters in the United States, especially after the U.S. Administration presented the veto gift as an advance electoral down payment.

Ar-Ra'y concludes: Anyhow, the Arabs are called upon to be cautious toward the U.S. propagation of the promised ideas. This propagation process and the promises at which Reagan hinted in his address must not constitute an obstacle to clearing the Arab atmosphere in preparation for the expected summit. Nor must the Arabs also be distracted by these ideas, or by the promises, from proceeding to prepare for the summit so that they will be able to face the challenges against them, after the U.S. deception has been revealed and after realizing that these ideas are a mere electoral game. The game is part of the deception.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Geneva Conference

JN261252 Amman Doemstic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Marwan al-Qasim left Amman this morning at the head of an official delegation to participate in a conference on the Palestine question to begin in Geneva on 29 August.

Al-Qasim told a PETRA-JNA correspondent that Jordan will call on the international community through this conference to adopt practical measures to achieve international unanimity on the need to establish a just peace in the region, bring about Israel's complete withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in 1967, and ensure the Palestinian people's restoration of their legitimate rights to their occupied national soil.

He added: Jordan will reaffirm that the influential states should use all available means to put an end to aggression and occupation. They should also put effective pressure on Israel to make it immediately end its settlement policies and withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

Al-Qasim said that Jordan, which has extended all possible aid and support for just Arab causes, headed by the Palestine question, will emphasize the need to protect Palestinian decision-making against any attempt to contain or influence it.

Renewed Shelling Leaves 3 Dead, More Wounded

Two Marines Killed

NC290919 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0918 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] A U.S. Marine spokesman has told the Voice of Lebanon that two Marines were killed and six others were wounded today in the Faculty of Sciences in Ash-Shuwayfat. The spokesman added that the Beirut airport is still coming under artillery shelling.

Marine Spokesman Issues Statement

NC291048 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Statement by U.S. Marines spokesman; 29 August 83, in Beirut]

[Text] The Marine spokesman has told the Voice of Lebanon that at 0945 today, two Marine personnel were killed and three others wounded. At 1015, another shell fell on the eastern section of the airport wounding three Marine personnel. He said: Today we are cautious, but yesterday we supported the army. The shelling is still continuing. Let us hear what the Marine spokesman said:

[Begin recording in English] At 0945 this morning, mortar rounds landed on the Marine positions to the east of Beirut Airport. The mortars killed one Marine instantly, and another Marine died a little later from his injuries. Three other Marines were slightly injured.

At 1015, another mortar round hit the Marine positions and three more Marines were injured. Shells are now falling around the Marine positions, and the Marines have only used elimination fire until this time. We have not returned any hostile fire at this time except at the (?outpost) last night when the Marines and the joint Lebanese Army and Marines' outposts were fired upon. [end recording]

Army Soldier Killed

NC291024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1011 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Excerpt] We have received information that Lebanese Army soldier 'Ali Hawlah was killed in the shelling directed at his position. The number of army wounded has risen to 34.

Concerning the shelling to which the Marine position in the airport vicinity was subjected, security sources said a short while ago that the Marines returned the fire of the source, which had resulted in the killing of two Marines and the wounding of six others. The U.S. unit returned the shelling by firing explosive 155 mm shells at the source of shelling located in the Khaldah-'Aramun area. The artillery emplacement, which shelled the Marine unit this morning, was hit.

Airport Shelling Continues

NC291106 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0959 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] According to reports just received, Beirut Airport is being shelled. Fires broke out in several hangars in the western part of the airport a short while ago. It appears that the fire is very large.

Fire engines at the airport are having difficulty fighting the fire because of the continued shelling, which is not directed at the airport perimeter alone, but at the airport itself as well. There is no information yet about the size of losses in the hangars.

Defense Ministry Shelled by Syrians in Al-Matn

NC291155 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1150 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] The perimeter of the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzah is currently being subjected to concentrated artillery shelling from the Syrian emplacements in upper Al-Matn. So far, eight shells have fallen on the perimeter.

The Al-Hazimiyah area is also being subjected to similar shelling. The army in the southern suburb is returning the provocative acts by leftist and Palestinian armed men.

More on Syrian Shelling

NC291105 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1046 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Here is the latest security report: Seven persons were wounded in Al-Hadath as a result of the Syrian-Socialist shelling. The Syrian artillery has been blatantly shelling the positions of the Lebanese Army, which is working to stabilize security in the southern suburb. Despite the intensive Syrian-Socialist-leftist artillery shelling, the Army has managed so far to control the Al-Murayjah area, and is now advancing toward Hayy as-Sullum.

In the meantime, a shell landed on Corniche al-Mazra'ah opposite the Al-Hulu barracks, causing material damage. Sniper fire is currently taking place in the Al-Bashura area.

Syrian, Leftist Concentrations in Hills

NC281055 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Our security correspondent has reported large Syrian, Palestinian, leftist, and nationalist concentrations in the hills of Al-'Aqurah and some of the hills overlooking the Al-Biqa'. These concentrations are equipped with rocket launchers, 132-mm artillery batteries, Grad rockets, antiaircraft guns, and T-52, and T-62 heavy tanks. These concentrations are an extension of similar concentrations in Tarshish, 'Aynturah, Duhur ash-Shuwayr, Bshillama, ('Ayn as-Sihhah), Falugha, and (Az-Za'rur). It is worth noting that the Syrian forces constructed a road between Hadath Ba'labakk and the Al-'Aqurah hills.

Cabinet Set To Hold Special Session
NC291124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1118 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] The Cabinet was invited a short while ago to hold a special session under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil and in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers. The ministers began arriving at the palace 1/2 hour ago. The session is expected to begin at 1330.

Regarding the security situation, the information available so far indicates that there is a noticeable quiet in the southern suburb. The sound of intermittent explosions continues to be heard in Beirut and some areas except the southern suburb. Efforts are continuing to consclidate the calm and restore tranquility.

Junblatt Reaffirms Conditions on Army Deployment
NC280705 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] A meeting among Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt, presidential adviser Dr Wadi' Haddad, and U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane was held yesterday afternoon at Elysee Palace in the presence of French presidential adviser (Francois de Crusul), former minister Marwan Hamadah, and Lebanese Ambassador in Paris Faruq Abu Al-Lam'.

The meeting lasted 3 hours, during which all matters related to the Lebanese crisis were discussed, particularly the situation in the mountain area and the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. While informed parliamentary and press sources have pointed out that a positive solution to the mountain issue could be achieved in the near future, observers preferred not to express an opinion on the situation until the results of the meeting crystallize and become clearer in the next 2 days, since nothing specific has yet transpired.

However, French television has conducted an interview with Walid Junblatt during which Junblatt elucidated his stand on what is taking place on the ground. In the television interview, Junblatt said: I reaffirmed my conditions — namely that the Lebanese Army will not be accepted in the Ash-Shuf before a political agreement is reached. What is required is an unconditional withdrawal of the Phalangists and an agreement on the entry of the Lebanese Army. He referred to the agreement that was reached with the Phalangist militia before the army's entry into East Beirut.

Junblatt stressed the need for annulling the Lebanese-Israeli agreement — otherwise the continuation of this agreement and the implementation of the partial withdrawal will automatically lead to the partitioning of Lebanon. He expressed his belief that no French, Italian, or U.S. forces should be sent to the mountain before an internal political agreement is reached. He emphasized that in the event an entry is effected by force, he, the inhabitants, and the party would be compelled to defend themselves.

Junblatt then commented on President Al-Jumayyil's speech by saying that it was ambiguous, pointing out: We are still at square one. He reasserted that any meeting with the government and the Salvation Front leadership must take place in Ad-Diman [in Lebanon]or Tunis.

Informed sources expect Junblatt to leave Paris for Geneva today to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam who will arrive in Geneva tomorrow to participate in the international conference on Palestine.

Army Ready for Move Into Mountain Area
NC280648 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Excerpts] The decision to send the army to the mountain area has been made. The plan for its deployment in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh districts has been completed. What remains is fixing the zero hour to implement the decision.

Quoting an official source, *An-Nahar* today says that the army's role in the mountain area will not be confined to just security functions, but that it will have a conciliation and development role. The source added that the decision on the army's entry into the mountain area is a fateful decision because Lebanon is facing a serious deadline, and the government will not permit a security vacuum or a snag because they would have destructive negative effects on the unity of the homeland and its structure. The source affirmed that the army units are now militarily prepared to move. They are commanded by Colonel Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham, who is assisted by Colonels Rene Hamrani and Munir Mir'i.

The preliminary reports say that the army will take over the last barrier of the Israeli forces in Sawfar, will penetrate deep into Ash-Shuf, and will be deployed along the coastal line. The Israeli army will withdraw from the mountain as soon as the army takes its positions. The source affirmed that the army's political task is to protect the accord and strike at anyone who tries to undermine it.

Effect of Begin Resignation Assessed
NC281236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] The decision by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to resign his post has stolen the limelight from everything else to the extent that the observers — who were following the Lebanese-American discussions, which were resumed in Paris, and the developments of the hijacked French airliner, which left Damascus airport to wander the skies in search of an airport to land now that the Iranian authorities have refused to let it land at Tehran airport — all these observers turned to Israel to follow up the prominent event which Begin created.

Begin has always created events in all his stands. However, he won a scoop today because his decision to leave the government is at the peak of events. This decision will leave its effects on the solutions which have been drawn up or are being prepared for the future of the entire Middle East and the Lebanese question, particularly the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon. At any rate, Begin's resignation will have adverse or positive

effects on the course of the efforts exerted on all levels regarding the conditions in the entire area.

At 1230, Israeli radio took all the world by surprise when it announced that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin told his government — during its weekly meeting today to resume the discussion of the deteriorating economic conditions in Israel — that he intends to resign from his post. The Cabinet stopped its discussions immediately. Dan Meridor, the press spokesman of the Israeli Government came out and communicated the news to reporters who drowned him with a flood of questions about the reasons which prompted Begin to take this sudden decision, despite what has been recently become known about the fact that he suffers from difficult psychological problems following the death of his wife. Dan Meridor tried to avoid an embarrassment. However, he admitted that the Israeli Cabinet was in session to resume the discussion of the economic situation. He said that the crisis of the government coalition, which the (TAMI) party generated was not behind the prime minister's decision.

After this, Meridor read an official statement saying that Begin told the Israeli Government that he intends to resign from his post. Consequently, the ministers requested their chief to stay in office so as to improve Israel's security and political position. Each minister spoke and the meeting was closed. The Israeli radio said that Begin emphasized he would abide by his decision and that he will go to the headquarters of the chief of state within the next few hours to officially submit his resignation to Israeli President Hayim Herzog.

According to the Israeli constitution, the Israeli Government is considered as having officially fallen and it becomes a caretaker government until the consultations which the Israeli president will hold. Either a new government group will emerge to assume rule, or else the Knesset will be dissolved and general elections will be held.

Amidst these developments, the following possibilities emerge: Either the Likud will succeed in uniting its scattered ranks under the leadership of Defense Minister Moshe Arens or Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, or else the Labor Party under the leadership of Shim'on Peres will be able to win some Likud elements in order to assume power. Otherwise, early elections will become inevitable.

West's 'Secret Plan' for IDF Withdrawal Reported

LD271708 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Imad 'Ajami dispatch]

[Text] Beirut, 27 Aug (KUNA) — Reliable Western diplomatic sources have revealed to KUNA a secret security plan to be implemented during the partial Israeli forces' withdrawal to Al-Awwali River and their replacement by the Lebanese Army in the Al-Jabal area. The sources, which asked not to be identified, said that this plan was reached by the American side after intensive contacts and shuttle visits between Lebanon and Israel led to the delay of the Israeli withdrawal for a few days to give the Lebanese side time to complete its preparations.

According to these sources, there are some other countries — such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan — working for an accord and a meeting ground between Walid Junblatt — chairman of the Socialist Progressive Party, who insists that the Lebanese Army will not be permitted to enter the Al-Jabal area before a general agreement is reached — on the one hand, and the Lebanese Government on the other.

It is for this reason, too, that U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane left for Rome and Paris to discuss the possible increase of the multinational forces and the widening of the area of their deployment toward Al-Jabal. The same can also be said about the visit of Dr Wadi' Haddad, the Lebanese presidential adviser,to Paris, where he met with McFarlane. He also met secretly with Junblatt early this week in Amman.

The following is the secret plan as revealed to KUNA by the diplomatic sources:

1. The United States would ask Israel to delay its withdrawal from the Al-Jabal area until they can be replaced by the Lebanese Army and if possible some multinational forces.

2. The principal center positions of the multinational forces shall be the Beirut-International Damascus road up to Ru'aysat Sawfar, where an American force will take up positions to separate the Israeli and Syrian forces there.

3. The United States and France would ask for the withdrawal of the outsider [Ghuraba'] fighters who belong to "the Lebanese forces" from the Al-Jabal area.

4. That Israel would be asked to delay its withdrawal until some time between 6 and 12 September to give more time for ending the fighting between the Druze and Christian militias in the Ash-Shuf.

5. Some of the Israeli heavy mechanized vehicles would return to the Al-Jabal area after their withdrawal. "This has already been done, since Israel has sent a mechanized brigade supported by tanks to the Aliyah region, and similar forces to the Ash-Shuf."

6. Three brigades of the Lebanese Army and 1,500 men of the multinational forces to be raised to 3,000 men by the end of the year, and would be sent to the Al-Jabal area.

7. The Lebanese Army would undertake not to collect arms from the Al-Jabal inhabitants during the first stage.

8. Brigadier General Mahmud Abu Dargham (a Druze) would assume command of the Lebanese Army forces it the Al-Jabal area.

9. The military barracks will remain as they are when the Lebanese Army enters the Al-Jabal area, provided that no military manifestations would be made outside these barracks and the armed outsiders would leave the area.

10. Heavy arms would be collected with the agreement of all parties concerneed, but party centers would be maintained and protected.

11. A general amnesty would be granted for all those who were involved in military operations, and only those people who committed actions unconnected with the fighting among the two parties such as thefts, murder, and the blowing up of houses will be brought to trial.

12. People forced out of their homes and villages would return to them.

13. The countries with forces in the multinational force will not allow their forces to enter the Al-Jabal area before an agreed upon solution is reached between the government and the opposition.

These sources added that the Italians have already told those concerned that the task for which they sent troops "was to protect the civilian population," and it is within the context of this task that they will agree to enter the Al-Jabal area. On their part, the French asked for a pledge from the two fighting sides (the socialists and the Phalangists), that their forces would not be attacked during their entry into the Al-Jabal area, and have also demanded a written request from the Lebanese Government for entering the Al-Jabal area.

Observers here are unable to decide whether the plan will succeed or not, and they are still awaiting the results of McFarlane's European tour.

Israelis Said To Put Haddad Under House Arrest

LD290904 Kuwait KUNA in English 1824 GMT 28 Aug 83

[By Muhammad Musa]

[Text] Amman, Aug 28 (KUNA) — Renegade Lebanese officer, Major Sa'd Haddad has been under a house-arrest for the past two days after trying [words indistinct] the occupied south Lebanon due to losing hope of being appointed general commander of the province, reports reaching here from the occupied Arab territories said Sunday. The detention decision was taken by the Israeli northern command after Haddad tried to escape with his family to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and then to proceed to a foreign country, the reports said.

Haddad thought seriously of fleeing the area after he became aware of Israeli intentions, and after Israel failed to fulfill a former promise of appointing him general commander of the occupied south Lebanon, the reports said. The Israeli military authorities, under former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and his chief of staff General Refa'el Eytan, had repeatedly promised Haddad to appoint him commander of the area stretching from Sidon to the northern Israeli settlement of Metulla. The report also said Eytan had visited Haddad several times last week to convince him to rescind his determination to leave the area, but he failed and the result was the detention order. The report noted that Haddad had complained to Eytan that he had been stripped of his power by the Israeli authorities, and that even the cash which Israel used to pay to him and his men had been reduced, according to the reports. The reports said the Israeli military authorities have started contacts with a local gang leader identified as "Abu al-Fuhud" to appoint him head of the right-wing militias in southern Lebanon to replace Haddad.

Resistance Fighters Attack Israeli Patrols

NC271444 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Despite the occupation authorities' repressive measures against the citizens, two new operations were carried out today against the occupation force in the western Al-Biqa' and the southern areas, causing several casualties among the enemy soldiers.

Since early this morning, the occupation forces have been surrounding the Srifa village in the Tyre district with large number of vehicles and soldiers, imposing a supply blockade on the residents after an enemy patrol came under attack with automatic weapons and hand grenades last night near Srifa. The reports said that a 30-minute clash took place between the Lebanese national resistance fighters and the enemy patrol members. The reports also said that there were several casualties among the enemy soldiers in the attack, and that the national resistance fighters were able to leave the area. The occupation forces immediately sealed off the area and combed it with automatic weapons' fire while searching for the perpetrators.

The occupation forces then imposed a siege on Srifa and demanded that the attackers be handed over before the siege is lifted. Meanwhile, the enemy forces stormed some of the village houses and detained four persons. The Srifa residents demonstrated inside the village in protest against the enemy measures. There is a plan to organize a sit-in inside the village mosque in protest against the measures of the occupation forces.

The Lebanese national resistance fighters this morning attacked an Israeli patrol in the Kamid al-Lawz area in the western Al-Biqa'. According to initial information, two shells were fired at the first patrol vehicle, hindering its advance. Meanwhile, the resistance fighters opened automatic weapons' fire at the other Israeli vehicles. The enemy losses have not been determined yet, but it has been reported that one of the resistance fighters was martyred. The enemy radio acknowledged the operation, but as usual reported no casualties.

Damascus Reports Begin's Intention To Resign

JN281128 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] An urgent AFP dispatch from occupied Jerusalem received a short while ago reports that the Zionist Cabinet session was suspended this morning when Begin announced his intention to resign. The report mentions that Begin withdrew from the meeting as well as all the ministers belonging to his party, the Herut party.

The AFP dispatch gave no other details.

Explosion in Damascus Reported; 5 Dead, 10 Wounded

JN280802 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 Aug (SANA) — A SANA correspondent has learned that an explosion occurred yesterday afternoon in an apartment in a building in Al-Bahsa Street in Damascus where commercial offices are located.

The explosion killed 5 persons who were working in the building and slightly wounded 10 passersby, who were immediately given first aid. The competent authorities are investigating the incident.

VOL on Explosion, Arrests

NC281322 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] More information has been made available to the Voice of Lebanon about the enormous explosion which took place outside the Syrian Intelligence Center in Damascus. According to the information, 8 persons were killed and 24 others were wounded — mostly members of the intelligence department — in addition to heavy material damage caused to neighboring buildings and the burning of a number of cars, including a Range Rover.

The information says that 30 Syrians and Palestinians have been arrested. Soon after the explosion, intelligence and police men cut a large number of Damascus roads with fixed roadblocks and, supported by three military helicopters, began searching cars and examining identity cards.

Roadblocks were also established on the approaches to Damascus and at the Az-Zaytunah crossroads, Maysalun, Dayr al-'Asha'ir, [words indistinct] Al-Masna', and at the [word indistinct] 'Anjar crossroads in Lebanon's Al-Biqa'.

According to preliminary information, no less than 30 Syrians and Palestinians have been arrested. People coming from Damascus say that the people of Damascus were frightened when the explosion occurred. Cafes and nightclubs were empty. Security measures have been taken around high-class hotels and official departments.

As for the explosion in the town of (Mhanna), it occurred near a residential complex for Syrian officers.

Clash With Israelis in Al-Biqa' 27 August

JN271335 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Aug (SANA) — A Syrian military spokesman has stated that the Israeli enemy this morning opened tank fire on one of the Syrian forces' postions in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' and that the Syrian forces returned fire and silenced its sources.

The spokesman added that the clash last from 0915 to 1110 today and resulted in the injury of two Syrian soldiers and the death or injury of an unspecified number of enemy troops who were inside a barrack which was destroyed.

Fairbanks Visits Damascus; Meets Khaddam 28 Aug

JN282014 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] It was learned from diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital that Richard Fairbanks, assistant to U.S. Middle East envoy Robert McFarlane, today paid a short visit to Damascus during which he met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

McFarlane returned to Rome this evening after visiting Paris and London.

Damascus Comments on McFarlane's Mission

JN281546 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The enemy sources have affirmed that the planned Israeli partial withdrawal has become effective. The Israeli generals and the Begin Government on the one hand, and the U.S. Government on the other, are studying ways to implement that withdrawal. Meanwhile, the U.S. envoy's mission has become clear during his European tour. He is to secure a cover for the new Israeli plan in Lebanon. McFarlane, who is seeking to increase the NATO forces and expand their role in Lebanon under the pretext of the need to fill the vacuum following the Israeli withdrawal from Ash-shuf and 'Alayh, and amid new U.S. statements concerning support for the Lebanese regime, affirms that he did not come to resolve the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, a problem which Habib and Shultz had failed to resolve as a result of the former's false promises and the latter's Israeli-Lebanese agreement, which was born dead.

McFarlane has come to peddle the new Israeli plan to redeploy its invading forces and demarcate its border in Lebanon in an attempt to annex the occupied south. His cards have disclosed his role and mission. Since arriving in Beirut, his major aim has been to work out ways for the entry of the factional Phalangist army into Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh. When he arrived in Jerusalem, he discussed with the Zionist leaders ways for carrying out the partial withdrawal plan and protecting the Lebanese Army and the Phalangist forces. His talks in the Arab capitals also focused on persuading these capitals of his administration's failure to

exercise pressure on the Begin government to consider the partial withdrawal as a phase in a comprehensive withdrawal from Lebanon.

McFarlane is also holding talks with the European countries that sent their forces to Lebanon with the aim of expanding the NATO forces and strengthening their role in occupying the evacuated Israeli positions and protecting the forces of the factional Lebanese Army. Thus, the Lebanese regime wants to distract Lebanese attention from the basic problem, which is represented by the Israeli-U.S. occupation of Lebanon. While the Lebanese regime is wagering on the U.S. role, the Phalangists try to strengthen themselves by exploiting the differences among the Lebanese people. The Lebanese regime is calling for a national accord in an attempt to preserve the balance against the growth of the national Islamic opposition and U.S. failure to fufill its promises to Lebanon.

Before new developments occur, Syria renews its call on the Lebanese regime to return to Lebanon from the U.S.-Israeli circles and cancel the agreement of submission. The Lebanese regime should also cancel its plan to storm Jabal Lubnan.

It should also meet with the leaders of nationalist Muslims and Christians to reach a new formula for a political and national accord. It should also accept the terms of the Progressive Socialist Party adopted by the Lebanese nationalists. To achieve this, the Lebanese Government should resign. On these bases, a Lebanese accord can be realized. Without this, a civil war will break out and the fingers of those who are playing with fire will be burnt.

Source Denies McFarlane's Mediation With Egypt

JN271800 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] An official source has stated the following:

News agencies and radio stations cited the Egyptian magazine *October* as saying that President Hafiz al-Asad discussed with U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane the issue of relations between Syria and Egypt. This report is baseless and false in part and parcel. Syria is not used to discussing its Arab relations through the United States and other foreign countries.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Visit 27 Aug

Khaddam Receives Delegation

JN271542 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] At 1500 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a U.S. Congressional delegation. The meeting was attended by the director of the U.S. Affairs Department in the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. During this meeting, the talks dealt with the current Middle East situation.

People's Assembly Speaker Meeting

JN271820 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi this afternoon received the U.S. Congressional delegation led by Senator Orrin G.Hatch in the presence of Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed the Arab situation in general and the Lebanese issue in particular in light of the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanon. Syria's firm and principled stands on the events and affairs in the region were also stressed.

The U.S. Congressional delegation arrived in Damascus today led by Senator Orrin G. Hatch on a 1-day visit to Syria.

The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Kuwaiti Deputy Premier Arrives 28 August

LD281437 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1121 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 Aug (KUNA) — The deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and minister of information, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, arrived here today on a short visit to Syria, during which he will meet with the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was received at the airport by the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari.

Shaykh Sabah, accompanied by Khaddam and Kandari, headed for Al-Ladhiqiyah to meet with President al-Asad, who is currently there.

The Kuwaiti minister will brief the Syrian president on the outcome of the eighth session of the GCC Ministerial Council recently held in At-Ta'if.

The GCC countries have decided at the end of this session to exert more efforts to clarify the Arab atmosphere and to prepare the suitable atmosphere for restoring Arab solidarity.

Shaykh Sabah will later meet with Mr Khaddam to discuss those efforts.

Al-Asad Receives Minister

JN281331 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister [name and title as heard].

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

Damascus on Withdrawal Conspiracy in Ash-Shuf

JN261632 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Before Israel implements its so-called redeployment of forces in the Lebanese territories, secret contacts and consultations are taking place among Israel, the Lebanese regime, and the Phalangist Party to facilitate the storming operation of the regime's army into the areas from which Israel intends to withdraw its forces. This was agreed on during the meetings which took place 10 days ago between Israeli war minister Moshe Arens and the leaders of the Phalangist-Sham'unite alliance. At that time, the Zionist minister did not hesitate to declare the readiness of the invasion forces to coordinate with the Lebanese regime's army, even after completing the measures for the so-called redeployment of forces.

It seems that the Israeli reinforcements dispatched to 'Alayh during the last 2 days enter within the framework of this coordination. What makes Israel reinforce its forces in that area, since within the next few days it will withdraw all its forces from there? Is not this an obviou sign of the existence of such coordination? Why did they send reinforcements if it were not for the existence of a joint plan among Israel, the regime, and the Phalangist gangs which includes the utilization the military means to implement what has been agreed upon?

It has become crystal clear that the declaration of the regime that its army will not enter the mountain area and Ash-Shuf through conciliation depends, indeed, on a secret agreement between the regime and the Phalangist on one hand and Israel on the other hand. It is not difficult to predict the contents of this agreement, if we know that Israel's racism is in complete harmony with the sectarian character of the Lebanese regime and the forces supporting it in the Phalangist Party, especially since a great number of this party'sarmed gangs wear the uniform of the regime's army, not only to conceal their identity but also to declare that there is no difference between the regime's army and this party's members, and that all of them are backed by the force of the Israeli army if the people try to confront and foil the plan of storming the mountain and Ash-Shuf.

It seems that the Phalangist Party and its agents in the regime's army know in advance the size of the losses and the defeat which will be inflicted on them if they try to implement the plan of storming the mountain even with the invasion forces' help. Therefore, they intensify their political maneuvers to cover up for their reality and true nature. They call for closing the barracks and removing the military manifestations in the Ash-Shuf and the mountain areas, while they maintain their forces in the areas which are under their control, and in fact reinforce them with Israeli arms and instructors to the extent that Israel intends to leave for them some of its weapons before implementing the withdrawal plan.

All this will not prevent the people and the struggler nationalist forces from the valiant confrontation of this conspiracy which aims at Zionizing Lebanon and imposing the sectarian hegemony over the Lebanese areas. Those people abide by their homeland's Arabism and courageously defend it to regain the homeland's independence, sovereignty, freedom, and dignity that were wasted by the regime.

It is no secret that the Arab Syria and its revolutionary militant leadership declare their readiness to increase their fraternal support for Lebanon's people and to provide them with all that is necessary for achieving the homeland's independence and safeguarding it from the most dangerous conspiracy against its entity and existence.

TISHRIN Warns Against Force in Mountain Area

JN270940 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, *Tishrin* says: Events in Lebanon are moving rapidly along the course set by the United States and Israel within the framework of the ill-famed agreement. The United States and Israel knew full well that this agreement would drag Lebanon into a whirlpool of complicated options and that the national objective of ending the occupation in the interest of Lebanon — the homeland and the people — would not be one of the options. This national option has dropped to the bottom of the list of priorities and the question of occuaption, which is the main issue, has become secondary due to the insistence of the pro-Zionist regime on determining matters against the interest of the homeland and the people.

The United States has encouraged the regime to depend on its wager and to seek the support of Israel, the sole enemy of the homeland, in triumphing over Lebanon — the homeland and the people. The regime now has no option other than this amazing insistence on using Israel to take vengeance on the homeland in Israel's interest of course. By cooperating with the enemy, the regime and its institutions have slipped into an impasse which is as serious as the impasse of the occupation and its complications. In fact, the new impasse is even more serious now.

The regime has chosen, from its options, the inevitable confrontation with the nationalist forces and the popular will which constitute the overwhelming majority in Lebanon. The regime can only determine matters with the help of the enemy and in the interest of this enemy of course. By resorting to this method, the regime will find itself in an inevitable situation, threatening the loss of the entire homeland and its forces as well as the regime itself. The only beneficiary would be the sole enemy of the homeland, Israel, and, consequently, the United States.

The regime has not tried even once to move away from the vicious circle of emotionalism, old grudges, and hidden complexes in its dealings with the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Lebanese people. The regime has allowed Israel to take vengeance on its behalf. This will necessarily be in the interest of Israel and against the regime itself at the end of the conflict.

We have often said that wrong conclusions are bound to lead to wrong results. This has been the case with the Lebanese regime, which is now trying to remedy the grave national mistake has committed with an even graver national mistake. This mistake is bound to destroy the entire homeland, including the regime and its institutions. If the Phalangists imagine for one moment that they will win the battle which they are preparing with the regime against the homeland and the people, then they are definitely mistaken. For they are only motivated by old grudges and complexes against Lebanon and the real winner will be Israel. Like all hirelings, the Phalangists will find themselves without any gain and condemned by everyone, including Israel, because Israel will not share its gains with those who have plotted against their own homeland. The outcome of dealing with the enemy against one's homeland is known throughout history.

It is inconceivable for Syria to leave its nationalist allies alone facing the rancorous alliance so it can settle its old accounts with them. Syria can only be a direct party, defending Lebanon and its living forces, just as it is defending its most sacred principles. Syria will not allow anyone to separately deal with, coerce, and liquidate the Lebanese people, especially at the hands of Israel. The Phalangist regime now has only one option; it is the option of the national solution and the return to the dialogue formula to achieve national accord, which is the only way out for the regime and the homeland from the current impasse and the only means to ensure the objective bases for solving the national question away from hegemony, domination, and coercion. Any stubborn attempt to sidetrack these objective bases and resort to the military solution, which is now being seriously considered by the Phalangists and the regime, against the nationalist forces in the mountain area and elsewhere, will be a mad adventure.

Syria will be compelled to prevent even the mere contemplation of such a move and to face it with all the force that can deter it. Syria will not be neutral except when the question is again in the hands of the Lebanese people so that they can determine their own destiny. Syria will not be neutral when Israel and the Phalangists are imposing death on Lebanon and liquidating it as a homeland and a people. Syria is dutybound to defend the Lebanese people and homeland with all its nationalist forces, the allies of Syria in the national and pan-Arab battle now raging between Israel and Lebanon. Syria will not leave these allies unaided in an unequal confrontation with the Zionists and pro-Zionists.

Hijackers Refuel; Reportedly To Go to Iran

NC280644 Paris AFP in English 0641 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Damascus, Aug 28 (AFP) — The hijackers of an Air France Boeing 727 that landed here early today have indicated they want to go to Tehran, an informed source said. The source said the hijackers, reportedly four Arabs armed with pistols and grenades, had wanted to stop in Damascus to refuel.

It was their third refueling stop after Geneva, where 37 passengers were released, and Catania, Sicily, where 56 were freed.

Menahem Begin Announces Intention To Resign

TA281002 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Here is a report we have just received from our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer from the prime minister's office: Prime Minister Menahem Begin announced in today's Cabinet meeting his intention to resign. His resignation of course leads to the resignation of the entire Cabinet.

Our political correspondent reported a few minutes ago that the prime minister announced his intention at the beginning of the Cabinet session. The ministers asked him to reconsider. However, the prime minister announced at the end of the meeting that he did not change his mind.

More on Announcement

TA281143 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1136 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live, from outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Text] The prime minister left his office a few minutes ago, looking very serious, pale, and very thin. He was accompanied by his close associates: Yehi'el Qadishay; his aide-de-camp 'Azri'el Nevo; and his spokesman, Uri Porat. He got into his car and is currently making his way home. The prime minister will not go to the president today and will not submit his resignation to the president today. Additional consultations will be held tomorrow morning. The prime minister is convening all the coalition partners in his office, including Agudat Yisra'el and all the ministers, to continue the debates. Only later will we learn whether the prime minister is submitting his resignation.

Sources close to the prime minister's office here tell us time and again: Menahem Begin is firm in his decision and is determined to submit his resignation to the president.

We should reiterate that Yuval Ne'eman, the first minister to emerge from the Cabinet session, told us that the prime minister's decision to resign is personal, but he added that he thought that there was a way to change his mind. That is why Yuval Ne'eman will tomorrow join his fellow Cabinet ministers at the meeting to try and persuade Menahem Begin not to resign.

Incidentally, when the prime minister emerged from his office and got into his car, a group of drivers who were waiting here cried to him: Do not resign!

Decision Said 'Firm'

TA282109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Prime Minister Begin told his confidants this evening that he did not inform the Cabinet today about his intention to resign only to revoke it the next day. This has been learned by our correspondent Arye Golan. Some of these confidants told our correspondent that it seems that Begin's decision to resign from his post is firm.

In talks he held today, including talks with parents of Israeli POW's, Menahem Begin said he has not decided to resign due to the coalition partners and the economic difficulties in which the government is finding itself.

He did not talk about the developments following his resignation, nor did he address himself to the calls by his supporters standing outside his house and requesting that he continue in his post. Our correspondent notes it is not yet known whether Begin will go tomorrow to the president to submit his resignation.

Reaction to Begin Resignation Reported

Knesset Members Comment

TA281211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] The first minister to emerge from the Cabinet session, Yuval Ne'eman, said that unexpected personal motives led the prime minister to his decision. According to Professor Ne'eman, Mr Begin will not rescind his decision, and all attempts at persuasion will be to no avail.

Minister Zvulun Hammer expressed the hope that Mr Begin will reconsider his move. The ministers will hold a meeting with the prime minister tomorrow morning in order to review developments. Minister Hammer further told our political correspondent that the National Religious Party [NRP] would continue to be a partner in another government led by a Likud figure. Nevertheless, he did not rule out the possibility of establishing a partnership with the Alignment.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir of the NRP said that whatever happens, his party would remain loyal to the partnership with the Likud because that is the mandate the NRP received from its electorate.

Coalition chairman MK Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisra'el said that the prime minister should consult with the members of the coalition before going to the president. The Agudat Yisra'el faction will convene tomorrow morning to discuss the situation.

The Labor Party has not yet officially reacted to the prime minister's intention to resign. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav was told that it was decided to wait until Menahem Begin goes to the president and his resignation becomes official. Nevertheless, Labor Party leaders are already discussing the possibility that the president may ask the Alignment to form a new government during this Knesset session.

In the next few hours, Shim'on Peres will convene a meeting with the participation of MAPAM Secretary Victor Shemtov, and apparently also with Hayim Bar-Lev and Yitzhaq Rabin.

Senior sources in TAMI said that Minister Uzan has abstained from submitting his resignation, and also did not attend this morning's Cabinet session because TAMI leaders had predicted

the prime minister's decision to resign. It was said that Minister Uzan opted to absent himself from the meeting lest he be held responsible for the situation that forced Mr Begin to resign.

Party Reactions Noted

TA281140 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1125 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Report by party affairs correspondent Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] There is a lot going on at the moment in the parties, and there is great confusion. For example, Labor Party leaders could not be reached. We were told that they have not changed their schedules in the wake of the prime minister's announcement. The prime minister's resignation letter should first reach the president,and only then will we react, we were told at Hayarkon Street, the office of the Labor Party center. It is clear that the Labor Party will try to establish an alternate coalition and will only then agree to hold elections, the reason for this being thatelections now would throw the Labor Party into a new competition round which might erode its position.

People in Herut and in the Liberal Party say: If the prime minister persists in his decision to resign, we will appeal to 'Ezer Weizman. Some even go so far as to say that in the wake of the talk 'Ezer held with the prime minister last week, Weizman told his close associates: I am returning to the Cabinet. It is now assumed that he will return as the Likud's candidate for the prime minister's post if early elections are held.

TAMI and Tehiya would rather have early elections than establish an alternate coalution.

It was difficult to get a clear reaction from tne National Religious Party [NRP] because both Minister Zvulun Hammer and Deputy Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir are currently with the prime minister, whereas Minister Burg is overseas. In any case, the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el will be the ones to decide whether early elections will or will not be held. Both these parties will in fact tip the balance.

David Levi Comments

TA281157 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1140 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Deputy Prime Minister David Levi statement outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem on 28 Aug]

[Text] The prime minister's announcement came as a surprise. He did not consult anybody and his decision was a surprise. In any event, I believe that this is not final. We are supposed to meet with him tomorrow morning — that is, the entire coalition.

Of course, and by nature, there are probably people who are rejoicing — that is, our political rivals. Of course, there is probably also a great deal of sadness in many households in Israel, both in the towns and in the villages. But as for the latter, it is still premature [to be sad].

I hope the prime minister rescinds his decision. We will do everything possible, both in our capacity as friends and as members of the Cabinet, bearing in mind the responsibility each one of us has to persuade the prime minister to continue. The tests ahead of us are great and essential, in the national, economic, and social spheres. Menahem Begin still has a great deal to contribute to the Israeli people and to the solution of these problems. I hope we succeed in persuading him to rescind his decision which, incidentally, has not yet become effective. We have been talking and I hope we indeed succeed in changing his mind.

Hundreds Demonstrate for Begin

TA282116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Hundreds of demonstrators, the prime minister's supporters, have convened near his house and are continuously calling on Menahem Begin to continue in office.

Our correspondent notes that buses which arrived from outside Jerusalem are also parked at the place. The demonstrators signed petitions and transferred them to the prime minister's hands.

Schiffer Assesses Present Political Situation

TA281100 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1050 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] What are the possibilities in the current political situation? These are the possibilities: The government, after the resignation of the prime minister, may turn into an interim government, and no one can enter or leave it. Aharon Uzan, who did not attend today's Cabinet session, will find himself in an interim government.

There is a possibility that the government will initiate a law to dissolve the Knesset, thus bringing about early elections, holding the elections for the Knesset with the municipal elections. This is the most talked about possibility, with the highest probability, talked about here in circles close to the Likud. And the reason is not to allow the Alignment to form an alternative government, something that does not seem all that impossible today, if the president asks the representative of the largest faction — and today the largest faction in the Knesset is the Alignment — to form a government.

So that the most talked about possibility is that if the prime minister adheres to his decision — and it seems that he will do so — the government should initiate a law dissolving the Knesset and rescheduling the elections.

Shamir Considered Possible Begin Successor

TA290538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] The morning after: Caution is required in this political

turmoil less than 24 hours old. However, what seems to become clear this morning, without anybody contradicting it, is that Prime Minister Menahem Begin will resign and Yitzhaq Shamir is the heir apparent. Efforts were made tonight by ministers in the Herut movement to reach agreement on the candidacy of Yitzhaq Shamir. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is in the studio:

[Schiffer] The suit is made to the measurements of Yitzhaq Shamir, a compromise candidate whose strength is in his power to unite around him the others claiming the inheritance. Shamir has maintained silence since yesterday, and will not react or refer to the events.

The foreign minister told me once: I never seek any position; everything comes. And it seems that so it will this time also. Yitzhaq Shamir succeeded in skirting the bumps practically untouched. Ari'el Sharon finds himself today almost outside the game, and most of the support he receives cannot be translated into political language. Moshe Arens is not a member of the Knesset and therefore will not be able to be the next prime minister. David Levi has the public support, but does not have the support from the main power bases in the Herut movement.

Tonight it was clear to all those cooking in the political kitchens that the move that will pass the leadership from Menahem Begin to his successor should be swift, with a lightning decision on the successor. This then, is what everybody is working for. Yitzhaq Shamir, if appointed, will have to appoint the beehive in which he will have to work.

Tonight the possibility was mentioned that 'Ezer Weizman will be asked to return to the Herut movement as foreign minister or defense minister. For many of the Likud ministers, Shamir, Arens, Weizman, and David Levi represent good leadership for the post-Begin era. At the moment everything seems smooth — a little too smooth. The chances are, of course, that the move of passing the leadership and keeping it in the present framework depends on the speed with which this will be done. The longer it takes, the more demands will be voiced by people, and the chances will become smaller. However all this depends on Begin's decision, his going to the president, and his willingness to take part in the division of portfolios in the Cabinet. Past experience has shown that a leader does not decide on his successors, but keeps his preferences to himself.

Begin Resignation Won't Change Redeployment Plans
TA281320 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1319 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Announcement from the defense minister's office carried on the 'special newsreel']

[Text] Here is an announcement from the defense minister's office: The prime minister's announcement this morning about his intention to resign does not change the IDF's plans to redeploy its forces on the Al-'Awwali line. Our military correspondent has learned from Professor Arens' office that the redeployment and the situation in Lebanon depend solely on the political negotiations which will continue despite the prime minister's announcement.

Kohl Visit To Take Place 'As Planned'
TA281412 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that the visit of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will begin on Wednesday as planned in spite of Mr Begin's announcement to resign. Nevertheless, the REUTER correspondent in Jerusalem reports that officials who asked to remain unidentified earlier said that the visit would be postponed. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem has said that for the time being there are no changes, and that as far as we are concerned the visit will take place.

IDF Spokesman Denies Reported Clash With Syrians
TA271408 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1401 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus claims that a firing incident involving the IDF and the Syrian Army occurred this morning in the Al-Biqa' area, but the IDF spokesman denies this. The Syrian military spokesman's announccement says that Israeli tanks opened fire at a Syrian position this morning at 0915, and that the Syrians returned fire. The fire exchanges lasted approximately 2 hours, and two Syrian soldiers were wounded according to that report. To repeat, the IDF spokesman reacted to this report by saying that nothing of the sort happened.

Lagos Reports OAU To Launch Chad Peace Initiative
AB261730 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] The OAU says it will launch a diplomatic initiative to promote peace talks between the warring factions in Chad. According to a report from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the current chairman of the organization, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, is to sponsor negotiations between President Hissein Habre and Mr Goukouni Oueddei as well as Libya.

Yesterday the OAU chairman met a French presidential envoy sent to Addis Ababa to press the organization to take a more active role in the efforts to settle the Chadian conflict peacefully.

OAU Chairman Calls for Increased Aid to SWAPO
EA252206 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Aug 83

[Text] Today the current OAU chairman called on the African and peace-loving countries of the world to provide additional aid to the Namibian liberation movement SWAPO so that it can strengthen its combat capability and hasten Namibia's independence. Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and current OAU chairman, made the call in a statement to mark Namibia Day, which will be observed tomorrow.

In his statement the OAU chairman stated that he was deeply concerned over the grave situation in Namibia and wished to add his voice to those heard up to now in support of the Namibian people, who are suffering under the racist and fascist South African regime. The comrade chairman recalled that numerous meetings calling for immediate independence for Namibia have been held since the UN General Assembly canceled South Africa's mandate over Namibia about 20 years ago and regretted to note that South Africa's uncompromising answer to this call has been only to further strengthen its illegal rule over Namibia and impose the ugly apartheid system.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that as a result of this, our brothers and sisters have not only lost their right to independence and to decide their own fate, but have also been forced to lead an inhuman existance as a result of unimaginable oppression by the racist South African regime.

OAU Official: West Delaying Namibian Independence
EA252223 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Aug 83

[Text] Dr Peter Onu, acting secretary general of the OAU, has said that Western countries, particularly the United States, are responsible for delaying the independence of the Namibian people.

Dr Peter Onu said this in a statement he gave today to mark the 17th anniversary of Namibia Day, which will be observed tomorrow. Dr Onu pointed out that the day will be observed every year until the Namibian people achieve independence.

CAMEROON

Ahidjo Resigns as National Union Chairman

NC271855 Paris AFP in English 1844 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Paris, Aug 27 (AFP) — The former president of Cameroon Ahmadou Ahidjo today announced his resignation as chairman of the ruling Cameroon National Union as it was announced in Yaounde that two of his close associates were to go on trial charged with threatening state security.

(Reliable sources in Yaounde said today that the two had plotted to kill President Paul Biya who became head of state when Mr. Ahidjo stood down last November for health reasons.)

In a message to "party activists, Cameroonian and world opinion" Mr. Ahidjo told AFP he had taken the decision because of the serious situation in Cameroon.

Resignation Statement

LD272225 Paris International Service in French 2115 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Today [former] President Ahidjo chose to step down once again, using the same approach he did last November. He explained his decision this evening exclusively to Radio France International. Here is the complete text of the statement he gave to us, read by Albert Hugues de Gauville.

On 4 November I freely resigned from my office as president of the republic. I retained the chairmanship of the Cameroon National Union [UNC] provisionally and under pressure from comrades in the party. Since then, as I have been saying recently, President Paul Biya has asked me to resign while I was out of the country. I refused, finding the procedure illegal and against propriety. Since then a police regime of terror has been set up in Cameroon. There was no hesitation in going so far as to accuse my very close assistants of having fomented a plot, of which I was alleged to be the instigator.

I feel that Cameroon is now on the verge of a grave crisis. Bearing all this in mind, in the interests of my country, and of all my compatriots who threaten to tear each other apart, I have freely decided to resign from the chairmanship of the UNC as of today. May God continue to protect Cameroon.

CHAD

Government Satisfied With Mitterrand Interview

AB261450 Paris AFP in French 1319 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, Aug 26 (AFP) — The Chadian Government has expressed satisfaction over the "quite firm statements made by President Mitterand against Libya," Chadian Information Minister Soumaila Mahamat said on Friday. "We are satisfied over the firm statement made on the indivisibility of any state and in particular that of Chad to which France is bound through agreements," the minister pointed out, while commenting on an interview with the French daily *Le Monde*. Chad, the minister also said, is satisfied with Mr Mitterrand's position on the 'sacrosanct' nature of Chad's borders.

Asked to comment on the statement the French president made concerning the federal solution of Chad, Mr Soumaila said he did not believe that this constituted an essential point of the interview. The main point according to him, is that "the expansionist character of Libya" has been condemned. The minister believed that the stand expressed by President Mitterrand that France would avoid getting involved in the war, was "conjectural." Finally, Mr Soumaila recalled that there would be no lasting peace without a halt to Libyan aggression.

French Defense Minister Concludes 2-Day Visit

Meeting With Habre

AB261138 Paris AFP in French 1117 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 26 Aug (AFP) — French Minister of Defense Charles Hernu, who arrived in Ndjamena on Thursday night, was received in audience by Chadian leader Hissein Habre this morning. After the audience, which lasted for 1 hour, the French Minister stated that "we reviewed with President Habre all the problems that have arisen." Charles Hernu said he came to Chad to visit the French contingent there, "in the capacity of minister of defense."

The French minister will visit Abeche this afternoon to inspect the French troops stationed in the town. Mr Hernu, who leaves Ndjamena on Saturday, said he will submit a report on his mission to French President Francois Mitterrand and to the French National Assembly committee on defense.

Topics Discussed

LD261154 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] There is anxiety, even consternation within the Chadian Government of Hissein Habre after Francois Mitterrand's interview with *Le Monde*. The idea of a federation for Chad mentioned by the French head of state is not at all liked by the Ndjamena leaders. Live, on the phone is our special correspondent Ulysse Gosset:

[Gosset] Indeed, I can tell you that there was some sort of consternation last night in the Chadian capital, consternation that Charles Hernu himself could witness this morning because the French defense minister was received by President Hissene Habre about mid-morning. During this meeting, the head of Operation Manta was to explain again to the Chadian head of state that France will not allow itself to be dragged in deeper than it wants. It is not a question of helping Hissein Habre reconquer the north occupied by Libya. It is thus a difficult mission for Charles Hernu, who has to admit to his interlocutor that France's independent policy does not always correspond with its friends' wishes.

In turn, Hissein Habre will undoubtedly explain that his forces do not possess the means to resume the offensive against Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's forces deployed at Faya-Largeau in the north. In the afternoon Charles Hernu will visit Abeche in eastern Chad to inspect the most remote positions of the French forces, a visit from which journalists are banned.

Further on Meetings

AB280905 Paris AFP in English 0400 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, Aug 28 (AFP) — The Chadian authorities organized a demonstration here on Saturday to celebrate friendship with France, the United States and Zaire, the three countries providing active military support for President Hissein Habre in the war with his Libyan-backed predecessor Goukouni Oueddei. The ceremony took place after French Defense Minister Charles Hernu left for Paris after a two-day visit for talks with Mr Habre and to inspect the French contingent of some 2,500 troops.

Reliable sources said that in his two meetings with Mr Habre, Mr Hernu gave certain assurances concerning the French military commitment. The defensive role of the French units did not signify passiveness, nor that they would wait to be attacked in order to take action, Mr Hernu was reported to have made clear. In his own brief account of his mission before leaving, Mr Hernu commented that there was "no need for France to feel any inhibitions" about its military presence.

"It doesn't mean neocolonialism. We are here because the frontiers inherited at independence must not be touched, and because there has been internationalisation of the Chadian conflict," he said. Mr Hernu asked: "Who here can truly think that if the French contingent had not arrived in this country, the forces which were threatening Chad would not have carried on?" Regarding his tour of French troop positions here and at Abeche, a key land and air link in the east, the minister remarked that the troops were "aware of their responsibilities as soldiers of a deterrent weapon. They are very good soldiers of peace, but they would also be able to wage war".

At the friendship ceremony later, the U.S., French and Zairian ambassadors were each presented with gifts of a horse, a carpet and elephant tusks. [Words indistinct] one Chadian orator, sporting French service decorations, hailed France as "the country of Clovis and Napoleon, the fatherland of De Gaulle and Mitterrand. Show the others what you are capable of. I am sure you will not disappoint us, because you have taken the first step".

Predeparture Statement

LD271832 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Charles Hernu left Chad this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit. Before his departure, the defense minister said that there was no shadow in relations with the Chadians. Charles Hernu made a point of stressing that the presence of France had put a halt to a threat hanging over Chad. Here is an excerpt from the statement he made to our special correspondent, Ulysse Gausset:

[Begin Hernu recording, starting in the middle of a sentence]...really here to think that if the French detachment had not arrived, who knows whether by now foreign forces would not have penetrated more deeply in this country. We know that the threat you are talking about has already been stopped. I will leave it at that, because, I repeat, in this domain I am no prophet, the role of our armies is to be ready, ready for peace, for war, but I hope for peace. We need not have any complexes. The French troops are in Chad but this in no way reeks of colonialism abandoned long ago by the Socialist government to which I belong. I belong to a political grouping which stands for progress. We are here because we know very well that one must not alter the borders inherited from the colonial system in Africa, for there is no telling what would happen. [end recording]

GUNT Rejects Mitterrand's Federation Proposal

AB281906 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Communique issued in Bardai on 28 August by the Transitional National Union Government — read by Secretary of State for Information and Tourism El Hadj Mahamat Tahab]

[Text] Communique from the presidency of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] on French President Mitterrand's interview with *Le Monde* newspaper on Thursday, 25 August 1983: The GUNT states the following:

1. It condemns unreservedly any (?idea) of federation as proposed by the French head of state. This negative proposal is not a new one. It was already made by former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, but was completely rejected by all Chadians.

2. The GUNT agrees on a sincere reconciliation without (?any interference), even with Hissein Habre if he shows good will to do so.

3. The only precondition for the opening of negotiations is the withdrawal of French troops. Their final withdrawal from Chadian territory was demanded unanimously by all major factions who signed the Lagos accords. This was in view of the obstacle they constituted for (?national reconciliation). How can the French acquire the status of (?saviors) of Chad 4 years after that?

GHANA

Government Statement on Foreign Ministry Dismissals

AB260902 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] The government has explained why it removed 69 officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from office last Tuesday. An official statement issued last night said they engaged in various irregularities which are particularly distasteful in personnel who represent Ghana in contacts with foreign governments, thus bringing the nation into disrepute.

The following are details of the misconduct of some of the dismissed officers: G.H. Arthur, while ambassador in Beijing, drew salaries and allowances he was not entitled to and made payments for trips by his children from the government chest without authority. He also made purchases of drugs and wrongfully charged them to the government. The sums involved in these and other irregularities amount to about 11,000 Chinese yuan.

On Austin Lotsu, the statement said an audit inspection report revealed a cash shortage of cedi vouchers sold in New York amounting to over 23,000 cedis. He was also suspected of having trafficked in hashish when he served in the Rome mission. Mike Ofosu-Appiah wrongfully collected 1,709 Australian dollars, being an overpayment to a packing and shipping agency of a deposit for the shipment of his personal effects. In addition, he owed various banks the sum of 11,749 Australian dollars. Dr. C.K. Graham wrongfully claimed over 120,000 CFA francs for work done at his residence. Alhaji I.D.A.A. Ocansey also embezzled about 7,000 cedis while serving in Bamako, Mali.

The statement further said that J.A. Gyanteh disposed of a television set brought under diplomatic privilege to a nondiplomat, contrary to Indian customs regulations. He also attempted to export 44 ingots of silver from New Delhi to Hong Kong. P.E. Amarteifio trafficked in and smoked Indian hemp and smuggled jeans. A shortage of over 5 million CFA francs obtained from the sale of cedi vouchers was discovered against R.G. Amissah. Another officer, R.K. Baah, made illegal claims of children's allowances in respect of a niece whom he falsely described as a daughter. G.C.N. Cudjoe was associated with a notorious character in hashish trafficking. He condoned illegal activities of a subordinate officer under his care and control. D.K. Ashlevi illegally imported bags and dresses and attempted to illegally import wristwatches and handkerchiefs while serving in Moscow.

The statement also said the following officers were implicated in the use of the diplomatic bag for trafficking in Indian hemp. They include Daniel Otoo, Richard Koranteng, Eric Asheley, George Yemoh, and Isaac Mills-Lamptey. The rest are G.W. Setranah, Kofi Baako, and Alex Amoah Nyame.

LIBERIA

Doe Returns From Visit to Israel 26 August

AB261920 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel K. Doe and his 15-man official party returned home this afternoon following a 5-day visit to the State of Israel. Dr Doe and party were met upon arrival at Roberts International Airport by an array of government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, students, and civil organizations. The head of state and party left the country on Monday at the invitation of Prime Minister Begin, and while in Israel, the head of state and Prime Minister Begin signed a number of cooperation agreements. The agreements signed provide for Liberia to get Israeli technical aid in agriculture, health, road construction, and the training of the security force at the Executive Mansion.

NIGERIA

Returns for House of Representatives Election

AB281825 Lagos NAN in English 1730 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Lagos, Aug 28 (NAN) — The Fedeco has announced some of the results of yesterday's House of Representatives' election. The NPN [National Party of Nigeria] candidate in Annioch, Bendel, Mr. George Uwechue, won the election with 31,999 votes. Mr. J.A. Ijekeye (NPP) [Nigerian People's Party] scored 5,623 votes, Mr. F.O. Mozia (UPN) [Unity Party of Nigeria] 1,606 and Mr. S.S. Ojomu (NAP) [Nigeria Advance Party] 546 while the GNPP [Great Nigeria People's Party] and the PRP [People's Redemption Party] which did not field candidates, scored 276 and 312 votes respectively.

In Oredo, Mr. Patrick Ogida (NPN) won by polling 129,298 votes, the UPN candidate, Mr. David Osa Edoh, 13,135, the GNPP 686, NAP 954, NPP 1,960, and PRP 374. Mr. P.D.O. Akpeki (NPN) won in Okpe with 38,312 votes, followed by Mr. J.Y. Odebala (UPN) with 13,653 votes while GNPP scored 71 votes, NAP 106, NPP 367 and PRP 63. In Ika, the NPN candidate, Mr. P.A. Ogbodu, won with 38,407 votes while Mr. Sule Uzum of the UPN scored 11,721 votes. NPP scored 918, PRP 258, GNPP 234 and NAP 295.

Mr. John Obiyan of the NPN won in Agbazilo with 93,662 votes against the UPN candidate, Mr. Oloho Ebhohimhen, who scored 10,069 votes. The others are NPP 954 votes, PRP 243, GNPP 249 and NAP 454. In Orhionmwon, Dr. Roland Ehigiamusoa (NPN) was elected by polling 125,715 votes while Mr. Mike Orobator (UPN) received 4,848 votes, NPP 811, NAP 400, PRP 245 and GNPP 219. The UPN candidate in Okpebho, Mr. Yakubu Itua, won with 47,188 votes while Mr. David Omoighe

(NPN) scored 26,954 votes. The NPP received 2,618 votes, PRP 274, GNPP 221 and NAP 197.

According to the results released by Fedeco in Niger, Alhaji Alhassan Kpansan of the NPN was elected in Agaie/Lapai by polling 44,075 votes; Alhaji Garba Lapia (UPN) 1,077; Alhaji Lawal Mamud (GNPP) 2,669; Alhaji Adamu Mohammed (NAP) 452, Alhaji Mamman Tella (PRP) 426 and Alhaji Kuti (NPP) 17,118.

In Ndaduma, Alhaji Zubairu Soje of the NPP won by polling 18,344 votes while Alhaji Mohammad Doko (NPN) scored 13,705; Alhaji Mohammed Kolo (NAP) 388 and Alhaji Buba Nduauya (UPN) 192 votes. The PRP did not field a candidate. In Suleja, Alhaji Dantani Ibrahim (NPN) emerged winner with 44,842 votes while Alhaji Attahiru Gawu (NPP) polled 5,368 votes, Alhaji Mohammed Yaro (PRP) 560 and Alhaji Abubakar Dankali (NAP) 184. The UPN did not field any candidate.

In Abuja, the NPN candidate, Alhaji Musa Tanko Abari, won the only seat by polling 165,629 of the total votes cast. Malam Isma'ila Iya (NPP) scored 2,626; Malam Abba Abdulahi (UPN) 919; Malam Musa Liman (PRP) 824 votes while the GNPP, which did not sponsor any candidate, received 366 votes. In Anambra, Mr. Frank Ugwu (NPP) was re-elected by scoring 22,874 in Nsukka constituency. Mr. Emmanuel Omeje polled 1,196; Mr. Gregory Ugwuanyi (GNPP) 336 votes while the NAP and the PRP, which fielded no candidates, scored 368 and 248 votes respectively.

In Owerri north, retired Col. Patrick Amadi of the NPP was re-elected with 34,246 of the 57,442 votes cast while in Owerri south, the NPN candidate, Mr. Livinus Okereafor, was declared winner with 45,840 of the 62,216 votes cast. In Ukwa, Mr. Nnanna Nwagbaranta (NPP) was elected by polling 17,128 of the 25,473 votes cast and in Orlu, Mr. Kevin Nwosu (NPP) scored 40,650 of the 59,778 votes cast.

The NPP candidate for Obowo, Mr. Paul Eleke, won by scoring 122,399 of the 134,622 votes cast while in Agbaja/Oke Ovuru constituency, the NPP incumbent, Mr. John Evuruche, emerged winner with 27,507 votes cast. In Umuahia, Mr. Adimoha Ikemba of the NPN was elected with 36,253 of the 75,205 votes cast and in Oru, the NPN candidate, Mr. P.C. Agwarangbo, won with 26,961 of the 51,124 votes cast.

The NPP candidate for Okigwe north, Chief E.O. Chukwu, was elected by scoring 30,459 of the 45,934 votes cast and in Ideato, Mazi Luke Agusiegbe (NPN) won with 82,899 of the 129,560 votes cast. In Ohaji/Egbema, Mr. P.U. Chukwu of the NPP was re-elected with 33,181 of the 54,563 votes cast and in Ihite Uboma, Mr. Tim Ogueri of the NPP was elected with 52,742 of the 80,569 votes cast.

In Sokoto, Alhaji Umaru Aliyu for Durbawa/Kware and Alhaji Umaru Goronyo, Goroye, both of the NPN were re-elected. Alhaji Umaru polled 66,856 votes out of a total of 68,345 votes to win the Goronyo seat. For the Durbawa/Kware constituency Alhaji Umaru polled 73,648 while the UPN candidate, Alhaji Aliyu Abbas, got 585 votes. Other parties did not field candidates.

The NPN in Bendel has won seven more seats, making a total of 15 in the results so far released by Fedeco. The UPN also won an additional seat bringing its total to two. In Ovia, Mr. B.I. Uwagboe (NPN) scored 88,170 votes while Mr. Clement Edo-Osagie (UPN) had 9,439 votes, GNPP scored 274, NPP, 1,313 and NAP, 409.

For Ndokwa seat: Dr. Odogu Egbune (NPN) 86,989, Dr. Obiesili Anwadike NPP 4,549, Mr. Andrew Ikogwe (UPN) 19,972, GNPP, 658 PRP, 544, and NAP 662. In Ethiope south, Chief Patrick Gbinije (NPN) won with 93,702 votes, Mr. William Ighigwe (UPN) 2,577, Mr. Palmer Umnu (NPP) 492, GNPP 462, PRP, 270 and NAP, 662.

Oshimili, Chief W. Ikolodo (NPN) got 16,324 votes to emerge winner, Col (rtd) Joseph Achuzia (UPN) 2,404, Ngo Martins Okommoh NAP 674, NPP, 5,328, GNPP, 180, PRP, 146. Akoko-Edo, Mr. Clandins Akpaja (NPN) won with 42,562, Mr Bayo Adams (UPN) 3,793, NPP, 296, GNPP, 189, PRP, 180, and NAP, 163. Bomadi: Chief E. Okosyeibo (NPN) was elected with 28,157 votes UPN 13,835 GNPP 73, NPP 190, and PRP 69.

Owan: Major (rtd) Babatunde Oisemaje (UPN) won with 25,772 votes, Chief Joshua Oni (NPN), 23,902, NPP, 755, GNPP, 207, PRP, 115 and NAP, 266. Etsako: Jubril Momoh (NPN) 126,775, Chief Z.A. Momodu (UPN) 30,414, GNPP 296, NPP 676, PRP 277 and NAP 277. In Oyun, Kwara, Mr. Isaac Olateru (UPN) re-elected with 45,485 votes, Mr. Yinka Faji (NPP) polled 31,945 votes, Mr. Bayo Giwa Polled 23,571 votes, Mr. Yekini Kolawole (NAP) scored 2,168 votes.

In Irepodun, Mr. Peter Obaoye (UPN) was re-elected with 87,131 votes, Mr. Rotimi (NPN) scored 10,639 votes, Mr. Joseph Adeniran (NPP) had 1,207 votes. In Ilorin east NPN candidate Mr. Arenu Yahaya was returned with 24,891 votes Mr. Joel Ajibade (UPN) 14,899 votes, while Mr. Isa Oniji (NPP) scored 993 votes. NAP did not field any candidate but had 409 votes.

In Okene, Alhaji S. Abdul (NPN) polled 55,445 votes to defeat the former UPN member representing Okene central in the state House of Assembly, Alhaji Dauda Itohu, who scored 18,999 votes. Alhaji A. Ahutu (NPP) polled 3,460 votes. GNPP and PRP did not field any candidate. In Ilorin west, Alhaji Abdulwahab Giwa (NPN) was elected with 73,891 votes. He was followed by Alhaji Maiyaki (UPN), who polled 14,962 votes while Isiaka Ahmed (NPP) came third with 2,765 votes. The GNPP candidate, Alhaji Elelu scored 626 votes.

In Asa, Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu (NPN) was declared the winner with 12,435 votes while Alhaji Aminu Alabutu (UPN) polled 8,230 votes to emerge second. Mr. Salau Garba (NPP) came third with 555 votes, while Alhaji Hassan Bello (GNPP) polled 192 votes. Nap and PRP did not field candidates.

NPN Accuses Unity Party of Fomenting Violence

AB280700 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] The National Party of Nigeria, NPN, has accused the Unity Party of Nigeria of recruiting a secret army to foment

violence in this month's series of elections. The NPN said that the leader of UPN was responsible for the riots which left at least 50 people dead and several others wounded. The national secretary of the ruling party, Senator Ogba Ahmed, revealed this at a news conference yesterday. The national secretary tended documents to prove these allegations.

Further on NPN Allegation

AB280900 Paris AFP in English 0424 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Lagos, Aug 28 (AFP) — Nigeria's main opposition party recruited a secret army to foment violence during this month's series of elections, the secretary-general of President Shehu Shagari's National Party alleged here Saturday. Senator Uba Ahmed accused the Unity Party of western leader Chief Obafemi Awolowo of being responsible for violence which left at least 50 perople dead, according to official figures. "The outburst of violence in a few states is not a spontaneous reaction by the masses," Mr Ahmed insisted.

He showed journalists photocopies of what he said were recruitment letters and pay slips for militia in some western states. The senator said the groups were called "SS", standing for state security as an official name and striking squad as a code name. Mr Ahmed alleged that the governor of Ogun State had officially admitted at a council meeting to having recruited "security agents", some of whom were said to be former soldiers. The senator also presented a document showing plans for guerrilla training camps purportedly prepared by another party, the Nigeria People's Party.

The National Party secretary-general also castigated Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka. He accused him of leaving the country to stir up trouble abroad, and alleged he had done the same in the 1960s at the time of the civil war with secessionist Biafra. Senator Ahmed was referring to a BBC interview in which Mr Soyinka said he felt Nigeria was on the brink of another civil war. Mr Ahmed asked Nigerians to "repudiate the cause of terror and destruction". He warned that although the country had had no political prisoners for the past four years, the previously unused measures of preventive detention might now be introduced in certain cases.

Meanwhile yesterday's voting for the 450-seat House of Representatives attracted a very poor turnout. It was the fourth time the electorate had been called to the polls in three weeks. Observers said the low turnout was due to election weariness and to the near certainty of a clear victory for President Shagari's party.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Message to Mengistu on Namibia Day

AB261053 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] On the occasion of Namibia Day, being observed in Africa today, the chairman of the National Council for the Revolution [CNR] and head of state, yesterday addressed messages to many African and foreign personalities. To the Ethiopian leader, Mengistu Haile Mariam, current chairman of the OAU, Captain Thomas Sankara writes:

Once again, the date 26 August reminds African states and their leaders of their responsibilities toward the Namibian people, who are frustrated and deprived of their national rights by the racist South African occupant. The CNR and the people of Upper Volta, on this historic day, express their total solidarity with the Namibian people led by SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. The CNR and the people of Upper Volta take the opportunity of this occasion to launch a solemn appeal to the OAU member-states to double their efforts and vigilance to enable the Namibian people to regain their national rights without delay.

We in revolutionary Upper Volta believe that any feeble and accomodating attitude can only serve the interests of the racist South African occupant. It is regrettable that this attitude is shown not only by the traditional allies of racist South Africa, but also by some of us. The people of Upper Volta and the CNR stand resolutely behind the Namibian people led by SWAPO in their struggle to free Namibia.

Sankara Appeals for Vigilance Against Enemies

AB271300 Paris AFP in French 1051 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, 27 Aug (AFP) — Captain Thomas Sankara, Upper Voltan head of state and chairman of the National Council of the Revolution, has appealed to the Revolutionary Defense Committees [CDR] for vigilance in order to expose the enemies of the revolution who are trying to infiltrate their ranks. "Local allies of imperialism, who have for 20 years presented themselves as out-and-out patriots maintaining the people in obscurantism, are now trying to infiltrate our CDR's," the head of state stated in a message to the CDR's.

The CDR's were set up at Thomas Sankara's request a day after the 4 August 1983 coup which brought him to power. According to the message sent to the CDR's, the enemies of the revolution are perverting the democratic game which we want to establish for the election of the leaders of our committees and they are resorting to the same mean electioneering maneuvers and malpractices which enabled them in the past to stand out as "great men."

Capt Sankara added, the CNR "has given instructions to national authorities to put an end to the infiltration attempts. We must put an end to all their maneuvers aimed at winning over the enthusiam of the masses." Capt Sankara, who was speaking to the CNR gathering on the occasion of the day of support to Namibia (Friday afternoon was proclaimed a holiday all over Upper Voltan national territory) said in substance: "We dare hope that the determination which you are showing in supporting the heroic struggle of our Namibian brothers against imperialism will inspire you in the relentless fight for the defense of our revolution. It cannot be otherwise, for the enemy is the same. The struggle will be long and hard. Victory will only be achieved if our motto, 'the fatherland or death,' is not just a slogan," the head of state said in conclusion.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Gives Conditions for Cuban Withdrawal

AB261728 Paris AFP in English 1723 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Lisbon, Aug. 26 (AFP) — President Jose Eduardo dos Santos today said his government and Cuba were ready to draw up a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola on four conditions, the Portuguese news agency ANOP reported. In a despatch from the Angolan capital Luanda, Mr dos Santos was quoted as saying that the estimated 20,000 Cuban troops would leave the country "progressively" on condition that:

1) South Africa "immediately and unconditionally" withdrew its troops from territory they occupied in Angola,

2) U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibian independence was implemented,

3) There was a halt in all aggression against Angola, and

4) There was a halt in military aid to the "puppet Angolan gangs", an allusion to the South African-backed UNITA rebel movement, led by Jonas Savimbi.

The announcement came as U.N. Security-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Luanda today in connection with Namibian and related issues.

UN Head Departs; SWAPO's Nujoma Meets Press

MB270742 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] The UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, left Luanda yesterday at about 2300 at the end of a visit to our country and at the end of a tour which also took him to South Africa and Namibia. Last night the UN secretary general was honored with a dinner party hosted by the Luanda provincial commissioner, Evaristo Domingos Kimba.

Shortly before leaving, Javier Perez de Cuellar gave a press conference to Angolan and foreign journalists of which we shall give you further details in our full newscast at 1300. The UN secretary general also held a meeting in camera with the president of the South-West African People's Organization, Sam Nujoma, yesterday.

At the end of the meeting the Namibian nationalist leader gave a press conference at which he said that he was very pleased with the opportunity given him by the UN secretary general to once again express SWAPO's position toward Namibia, which entails the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, which provides, among other things, for free elections under the auspices of the United Nations. President Sam Nujoma of SWAPO also rejected the linkage policy, first stated by the U.S. Administration and later by racist South Africa, establishing a parallel between Namibia's independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, stressing that the Angolan people are a soveriegn people and, as such, they have the right to choose their own friends.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Angolan people, saying that the Namibian people feel very encouraged by the support given to their struggle by the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party, the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, and Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Later the UN secretary general was received by Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, with whom he discussed the purpose of his tour. The meeting was attended by the Angolan representative at the United Nations, Elisio de Figueiredo.

SWAPO's Nujoma Comments on Namibia Day

AB262035 Luanda ANGOP in French 1050 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Luanda, 26 August (ANGOP) — Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO of Namibia, said in Luanda yesterday that "if the racist forces were honest enough to announce their losses, we would better understand the financial crisis currently prevailing in Namibia which is forcing the racists to borrow from international financial institutions."

Sam Nujoma, who was speaking during a press conference within the framework of demonstrations marking the 17th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle in Namibia, which is being celebrated today, 26 August, said that since 26 August 1966, the SWAPO fighters, men and women of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, (PLAN) have scored impressive victories against the enemy forces. "The liberation struggle in Namibia," he went on to say, "has spread to the various regions through an intensification of military attacks in the districts of Tsumeb, Otavi, Grootfontein, Outjo, Kamanjae, and Windhoek forcing about 40,000 whites to emigrate to South Africa and Western Europe." He also added that SWAPO had scored many victories over the past few months, such as last April when its fighters operating in Kaokoland severely routed the enemy who was carrying reinforcement supplies to Ohopoho base.

After referring to the PLAN's victories, Sam Nujoma energetically condemned racist South Africa, which continues its illegal occupation of Namibia under the pretext, he said, of defending Western civilization and Christianity. "Angola," Nujoma added, "is an independent and sovereign country that has the right to cooperate with friendly countries to defend its territory against possible military attacks. In this context, SWAPO rejects the maneuvers of the Reagan administration and the racist regime of Pretoria who link the decolonization process in Namibia to the withdrawal of international Cuban troops from Angola.

The SWAPO leader also condemned the concentration of heavily armed racist forces in a few areas in Namibia whose aim is not only to destabilize peace and security in Angola but also in the world. He also said that presently South Africa is recruiting mercenaries, training the puppet UNITA forces, and introducing them into Angola to sabotage the Angolan economy. President Sam Nujoma ended by thanking the frontline states, the Organization of the African Unity, the nonaligned countries, and the

entire socialist community for the humanitarian aid they have been giving to SWAPO and the Namibian people.

NAMIBIA

UN Head Concludes Visit, Departs for Angola

Press Conference Remarks

MB261259 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] The UN secretary general, Dr Perez de Cuellar, has said on his departure from Windhoek that he admits that the problem of Cubans in Angola is a sensitive one. He said that this problem did not fall within the gambit of the UN independence plans for South-West Africa, though, and as such could not be resolved by his delegation. Dr Perez de Cuellar said at a news conference that it would be most unfair to connect this problem to the South-West Africa issue. He said this did not mean he was not prepared to do something about it. Dr Perez de Cuellar said he would try to find a solution to the Cuban problem in conjunction with the implementation of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council.

The administrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, also addressed the news conference and expressed his satisfaction with the visit by the UN group. He said the next step in the attainment of a settlement in South- West Africa had to be the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. Dr van Niekerk said he received the impression that the secretary general's visit had provided new possibilities for the solution of the problem of equal status for all parties in the area.

Dr Perez de Cuellar is to hold talks this afternoon in Luanda with the SWAPO leader, Sam Nujoma, before departing for Europe immediately afterwards. He has to report to the Security Council at the end of this month about his latest initiatives.

Further on Press Conference

AB261134 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Windhoek, Aug 26 (AFP) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today left Windhoek, capital of the disputed territory of Namibia, to fly to Luanda, Angola, on the other side of southern Africa s frontline. Mr Perez de Cuellar set the stage for his 48-hour "familiarization and information" mission in Namibia with two days of talks in Cape Town, on Tuesday and Wednesday, with leading members of the South African Government. South Africa administers Namibia in defiance of the United Nations, and Mr Perez de Cuellar had sought to resolve technical problems involved in the eventual implementation of a UN-sponsored independence plan for the territory.

At a brief press conference before leaving Windhoek today, the UN executive said that his talks in Cape Town had led to "important progress" within the limited terms of his mandate. Mr Perez de Cuellar's mandate from the Security Council does not extend to negotiations on the future of Cuban troops deployed in Angolan (to the north of Namibia) which South Africa wants withdrawn prior to a settlement in Namibia. The secretary general said that he would stay in Luanda only a few hours, long enough to meet Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) which is fighting the South African administration in Namibia. He is due in Geneva later tonight to start preparing his report, which is to be submitted to the Security Council on Wednesday.

He described talks here yesterday and early today with representatives of some of Namibia's "internal" parties as "immensely useful and informative". They had enabled him to get "a picture of the wishes, the fears and the aspirations of the people of Namibia," Me Perez de Cuellar said. He now felt that independence would not be enough by itself, but that it would have to be backed by "strong economic support."

At a separate press conference in Windhoek, South Africa's administrator general, Willie van Niekerk, said that South Africa and the Namibian internal parties thought that UN recognition of SWAPO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of the territory was "wholly unacceptable."

Mr Perez de Cuellar commented later that he had assured representatives of the internal parties that all parties would be given equal treatment when elections eventually took place, under United Nations supervision, to choose a constituent assembly as called for by the UN settlement plan.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Reelected UNIP President, Dissolves Parliament

MB270848 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] President Kaunda was last night unanimously reelected president of the United National Independence Party, UNIP, by about 10,000 delegates at the ninth party general conference. Chairman of the electoral commission, Deputy Chief Justice Mr Justice (Nathan Gove), proclaimed Dr Kaunda as the sole nominee for the party presidency and therefore elected unopposed to the post. An overwhelmed Dr Kaunda said he was (?humbled) by the trust that the nation had placed in him by his reelection as party president and called on the nation to continue rendering its support in his efforts to lead the nation to further prosperity. President Kaunda said his success would depend on the cooperation and hard work on the part of every Zambian.

Shortly after being reelected as party president for the next 5 years Dr Kaunda dissolved parliament. The dissolution was wildly cheered by delegates [words indistinct]. The announcement is expected to open the way for official election campaigns although the election date was not announced.

Dr Kaunda also pledged to defend the right of all Zambians to participate freely in matters that effect them. He said the freedom of the people to shape their own destiny without hindrance is a God-given one which no one had the right to oppose. President Kaunda assured the nation that the party was not afraid of constructive criticism or truth but was afraid of (?fraudulence).